

OF

# NEDEVANS.

INTERSPERSED WITH

MORAL and CRITICAL REMARKS;

ANECDOTES and CHARACTERS of many Persons well known in the Polite World;

AND

INCIDENTAL STRICTURES on the PRESENT STATE OF IRELAND.

" O'erstep not the modesty of Nature!"

SHAKESPEARE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

## DUBLIN:

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## HISTORY

OF

## NEDEVANS.

#### CHAP. I.

N one of those beautiful and retired valleys which abound in the country once known by the general name of Snowdon, and which now forms a part of the county of Caernarvon, was feated the humble but hospitable dwelling of the reverend Evan Evans. The high mountain of Penmanmawr defended this little mansion from the chilling blafts of the north east; whilst a stream purer than the crystal ran murmuring among the rocks which time and the winter's torrents had separated from the neighbouring mountains, forming a feries of fuccessive waterfalls before his windows, and clothing its banks with an eternal verdure. Thousands of sheep, whose fleeces might vie with fnow in whiteness, were the happy tenants of this peaceful vale; whose innocent bleatings, being echoed by furrounding YOL. I. woods,

woods, and mixed with the fongs of birds and the murmurs of the brook, formed a concert of natural and foothing music, which are can feldom equal, and never excel. Here Mr. Evans had resided for upwards of eighteen years, and exercised the pastoral office literally over his sheep, and figuratively over a numerous parish in a manner that won him the hearts of all his congregation.

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The reader must not imagine however that Mr. Evans was a beneficed clergyman. He had indeed long fulfilled the duties of one with respectable abilities, and with conscientious and unceafing diligence; but the emoluments were reaped by a gentleman who had never feen the parish but once, when he quarrelled with the parishioners about his tythes, and had therefore refolved never to come among them again. It is poffible however they had no great loss, for the trust was faithfully executed by the worthy Evans for the small salary of 20l. a year, which, with the profits of a few acres round his little dwelling, and which could hardly be estimated at above 201. more, was all the income he possessed in the world. But though fortune had dealt thus hardly by him, nature had been more benignant; for from her he inherited an excellent constitution both of body and mind, and, what was still more valuable, a heart overflowing with kindnefs, and replete with every virtue that could ennoble and exalt a man. Mr. Evans moreover was happy in an excellent wife, whom he had married in his youth from the uncommon motive of pure affection, without any view either to interest or fortune; and which was inspired by the equally encommon quality of unalterable sweetness of temper, which gave her a look of benignity forpailing beauty, and which she now retained in full perfection at an age when beauty (if the ever

ever had any) would have been confiderably impaired, She had now lived with her hufband upwards of thirty years in happy wedlock; and I heard her declare, that in all that time she had never differed with him but once, and that too was on a point about which it might be prefumed he had no right to interfere. It was foon after he took her home to a little house he had in the neighbouring diocese of St. Asaph (where indeed he was born, and where he first served a cure, before he removed to his present dwelling) that the good woman was employed on her first brewing of ale; a matter of very confiderable importance to a Welch housewife, and of no less moment to a Welch parson; and honest Evans being an adept in the art, and a perfect connoisseur in the true smack of cwrw (as ale is called in his country), took the liberty to find fault with his wife's management; which it must be confessed was a tender point, and what no husband ought to presume to do. It is therefore not to be wondered at if the good lady for the first time in her life was a little off her guard, and defended her undoubted prerogative of managing her drink as she thought fit; it is much more to be admired, that this was the last time as well as the first that she ever differed from her husband. And indeed she had candour enough to declare, that it was the event of this quarrel which confirmed her in perfect fubmission ever after; for certain it is, the ale proved four, which she wisely ascribed to the tartness of some speeches she chanced then to let fall, determined from that time forth that no ill humour of hers should ever again be the cause of a domestic calamity-a refolution which she has inviolably kept ever fince, and which I should most hear-B 2

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tily recommend to all those good wives who may

chance to peruse this story:

Mrs Evans, while the resided at St. Asaph, had borne to her husband one daughter, whom they named Winifrid, from a lady of illustrious beauty and virtue in those parts, whose name has long fince been enrolled amongst the martyrs and faints in heaven; and indeed the cherub countenance and the opening virtues of the little terrestrial Winifrid filled her parents hearts with the fond and pleasing hope that the would one day rival the faint in every excellence both of body and mind; but Providence thought fit to determine otherwise, and took her to himself in the seventh year of her age. The afflicted parents sustained their loss with that meekness and refignation which true wisdom, and a just sense of religion never fail to inspire. They were however to far infected with human weakness that their home became disagreeable to them. They could not bear the walks in which they no longer saw their little darling: and the neat bit of garden before the house in which she used to play, and where with transport they so often beheld her tying up the flowers, and with artless innocence displaying taste even in her most careless diversions, for ever recalled her to their mind, and filled their eyes with a fountain of perpetual forrow, too tender and too diftreffing for hearts fo fusceptible as theirs to endure. was this melancholy event which first determined them to quit St. Afaph; and the cure in Caernarvonshire soon after offering, they gladly removed to it; but not before heaven had affuaged their forrow by fending them a fon, who at the opening of this history was in the nineteenth year of his age. This darling boy, whose name was Edward, and in whom all their cares and all their

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Kieir hopes were now centered, was every way worthy of their tenderest affection. His beauty was of that manly kind where robust strength is united to perfect elegance: the blushes of the morning feemed to be lighted up in his cheeks, which glowed with health, and which were shaded by his thick and glossy hair, that played about his neck in natural curls; whilst wit tempered with good nature beamed from his dark eyes, whose fire was softened without being concealed by a pair of long eye-lashes of the deepest There was, befides, a grace and majesty brown. in his figure that would have bestowed dignity upon a clown, and which was far furpaffing any thing that could be expected from the fon of a Welch curate.

Nor was the mind of this amiable youth any way inferior to his person. It had been the delightful task of Mr. Evans to form his heart from the first dawn of opening reason, and nature had been so kind as to give him a heart, than which a worthier was never planted in a human breaft. Under the care of this kind instructor he had acquired a competent knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages; and having an elegant turn for music and painting, which indeed the scenes about him had naturally inspired, he had improved those talents merely by the dint of industry and genius in a wonderful manner, and had acquired many accomplishments that adorn the gentleman, to a degree infinitely beyond what could be expected from the humility of his station and the lowness of his finances. For this he was indebted to a happy dispofition of nature, which drank instruction more greedily than it could be offered; and as the excellent character of Mr. Evans made every thing that belonged to him an object of regard, young Edward found no difficulty in being admitted to the best companies in the neighbourhood, where his own good qualities were soon known and admired, and every where established him a general favourite. In these societies his good sense soon taught him to distinguish what was most estimable; and though he never remembered to have been sifty miles from the sequestered habitation in which he dwelt, yet neither his figure nor his manners would have been reckoned awkward in any drawing room in Europe.

Such was Ned Evans, the subject of the following memoirs; for whose welfare and success the author confesses himself deeply interested, and to whom he trusts the reader is already not wholly indifferent; and he hopes that, in the course of his suture history, he will never be found to act unbecoming his character, nor give occasion to forseit that good opinion which his

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## CHAP. II.

IT was one night in the month of November in the year 1779, that our good curate and his amiable wife had fat down to regale themselves over a mug of ale and a plate of toasted cheese; when they were suddenly startled by a bright flash of lightning, which was instantly followed by a tremendous clap of thunder. Mrs. Evans was naturally timorous, and more afraid of thunder than of any thing else in the world; and though her husband was not subject to this weakness, yet the uncommon loudness of the peal, and the feafon of the year when thunder is but a rare phenomenon, hindered him to be altogether at ease; especially as it was not long before that a house in the neighbourhood had been fet on fire by lightning, and much mifchief done, though the family had the good fortune to escape. But it was not for his house, nor for himself, that his fears were alarmed on this occasion; the morning had been uncommonly fine, and he had taken advantage of it to fend Ned as far as Bangor, about nine miles off, on some business he had with the register of the diocese; and Ned, being stout, and unwilling to tire his father's only horse, had taken an oaken staff in his hand, and trusted to his own legs for the journey; in which indeed his wisdom was as conspicuous as his humanity; for it is certain that his own two were much better and fafer to be

be relied on than the other's four. Be that as it may, he was not yet come back, though it was long past the hour he had been expected; and as he was not accustomed to stay on any errands, and the night was now fet in with all its horrors of ftorm and of darkness, we may forgive our worthy curate, if he began to be difturbed by some rising fears; which however he endeavoured to suppress out of compassion to his wife, who was now in fuch an agony of terror as could not support itself under any addition. Long did they liften with attentive and expecting ears, hoping to hear the welcome tread of Ned's active and nimble feet; the ale and the cheefe (now cold) were fuffered to stand neglected on the table; whilft the good man holding his wife's left hand in his right, while her head rested on his bosom, spoke not to her, but looked unutterable tenderness and affection. He was supporting her in this tender attitude, and endeavouring to foothe her fears, when Towfer, who was Ned's favorite dog, and was lying on the hearth, fet up a loud and melancholy howl; which was presently followed by the trampling of horses, and the sound of many voices at the Poor Mrs. Evans, who had long been wound up to the highest pitch of terror, could not support this new alarm, and immediately fainted in her husband's arms; who was himself in a condition not much better, bawling in vain to their only maid to come to her mistress's asfistance; but she had long fince crept into her hed, terrified at the thunder, where she lay smothering under the clothes, incapable of hearing, and afraid even to draw her breath. The noise now grew louder, and approached the house, when Mr. Evans distinctly heard Ned's voice calling for affiltance, and begging him to open n it

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the door. The agitation the poor man was in is not to be described; his wife still senseles in his arms, and his boy, for aught he knew, about to be murdered at the gate. He had presence of mind however to lay her gently in an arm chair which happily stood by him, and then endeavouring to fpring to the door, he unluckily overthrew the table, with his ale and his cheefe, and, what was far more unfortunate, the candle, which was extinguished in the fall. All was now darkness and confusion, Ned still thundering at the door, and calling on his father. "What, in the name of God, has happened to you?" faid he, as he endeavoured to unbolt the lock; "Nothing to myself," cried Ned, "but every thing that is disastrous to two unhappy ladies, one of whom is in my arms." "Thank God! Thank God!" replied the honest curate, not confidering what he faid, but rejoiced to find that Ned at least was fafe; when continuing to fumble about the lock, the youth's patience was exhausted, and driving his foot against the door with all his force, he burst it open with such. violence, that it laid the old gentleman sprawling on the floor. Ned then came in, supporting the lady, who was altogether lenfeles; and. finding his father on the ground, "My dear Sir," faid he, "I hope I have not hurt you: I heartily beg your pardon; for, on my foul! I meant you no difrespect, but the fituation of this unhappy lady must excuse me." " It does, it does, my dear boy, were it ten times worle; I am not hurt, and if I was, the joy of feeing you fafe would cure me." He now role from the floor, i and groping into the kitchen, discovered Molly in her covert, whom he quickly unledged, and. fet about endeavouring to recover a light. A candle at length was brought, and discovered a spectacle:

spectacle of forrow, the extent of which was not known before; Ned, wet to the skin, supporting in his arms a beautiful creature of about leventeen, dreffed in a travelling habit of the most elegant fashion: her hair dark as the wing of the raven, was floating all dishevelled, over her lovely bosom, which just heaved with breath; and her cheek all pale as ashes, lay reclined upon his neck; her eyes feemed closed in death; and the was wholly unconscious where she was, or how there, or what had happened. Behind were two postillions bearing in the body of another female, dreffed with the fame elegance, but advanced in years; whilft blood was streaming from a wound which she had received in her breatt. Poor Evans stood motionless with horror and aftonishment; wholly regardless of his wife, who was now come to herfelf, but equally entranced with terror and furprife. At length he found utterance; and clasping his hands together, "Oh! Ned," he cried, "who is this angel you have brought here, and what has befallen her? " Alas! Sir," faid he, "I cannot tell-all I know, I shall relate. As I was coming home from Bangar (where, as it now turns out, I was fortunately detained,) about a hundred yards beyond the turning to the house, I met a post chaise and four on the turnpike road: it had globes with lights in them, by the glimmering of which I faw it fuddenly attacked by two highwaymen on horseback; one of whom stopped the foremost postillion, whilst the other went to the window of the chaife. I toon after heard a female shriek, when springing forward to give them what affiftance I could afford, I was lucky enough to knock the fcoundrel at the window down with the oak stick I had in my hand; which the other fellow fees t

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ing, immediately quitted the postillion, and difcharged a loaded blunderbuss, as I believe, into the chaife. The unfortunate lady whom you fee killed, faid, 'Oh God!' and instantly expired. This angel, whom you now fee fenfelefs in my arms, feil into them in this condition. The wicked perpetrators of this horrible act took advantage of the darkness and confusion, and have escaped. The postillions are no way to blame; they behaved as well as lads in their fituation could do: they have preferred the trunks and the effects; and the wretched authors of all this mischief have no other prey but the life of this innocent and unfortunate lady. trust that the lovely object in my arms has no other hurt but fright, and I rejoice that Providence has fo ordered it as to bring me to her affistance, and that the misfortune has happened fo near the house which can afford her an asylum in her present comfortless and forlorn situation." " And I rejoice, too," faid honest Evans, " and I bless my God, who has inspired you with courage and refolution to fear no danger in fuccouring the diffressed, and who has given me this humble habitation to be a comfort and refuge to this fair unfortunate. Go, my dear," faid he, turning to his wife, who was now wholly recovered, "go and fee what cordial, or other thing you can find, that can help to reftore her to her fenfes." He now turned to the postillions, who were standing all this time; bearing the body of the murdered lady between. them; and having affished them to dispose it decently on chairs fet for the purpose, he defired them to tell him all they knew of the matter: They faid they were wholly ignorant who the ladies were, but they certainly were people of condition-that they had come from London; and.

and had crossed the ferry at Conway, about four o'clock—that they were on their way to Ireland, of which country they believed they were natives, and wishing to overtake the packet, which fails to-morrow from the Head, they were in haste to get on to Bangor this night; and had therefore, late as it was, taken a chaise and four at Conway for that purpose; that they had come on very well notwithstanding the storm till the highwaymen stopped them—and that all the rest

was just as Mr. Edward had described it.

Mrs. Evans now returned, with the remains of a bottle of Hungary water, which was the only thing that the had in the house that was like a cordial (for she was not one of those good women, who, under the pretence of weak nerves and windy stomachs, are for ever taking drams disguised with the name of cordial waters); and with this she bathed the lady's temples, while her husband held a bottle of falts to her nofe, Ned Evans still supporting her in his arms. In a little time she fetched a deep figh; and foon after raifing her languid eyes, which still shone, though with diminished lustre, " Where am 1?" faid she, " and into what hands am I fallen'?"-" You are fallen into honourable hands," replied Evans; " into hands that shall be exerted to the utmost to administer to you every comfort and confolation they can procure, and which your appearance and fituation fo justly demand." "Whoever you are, Sir," faid the, " I thank you; greatly, greatly do I thank you," " Dear lady," faid Ned, " let me support you to this arm chair; sit down a little and endeavour to be composed, till we cau get you some refreshment." She now raised herself upon her seet, when turning to be led, and beholding the body of her companion where

Evans and the postillions had laid it out, she sprang to it with renewed strength, and throwing herself on her knees and embracing it in her arms, "Oh! Mrs. Melville," said she, "my dear, my faithful, my parental friend, have I lost you for ever!" She kissed the corpse with an intense servour, and turning up her eyes to Heaven, she burst into a violent flood of tears.

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Mrs. Evans and Ned would have gone to her and endeavoured to force her to her chair; but " Let her alone Mr. Evans forbade them. awhile," faid he; " her heart is agitated to the last degree, and tears will be the speediest and most effectual relief." They suffered her then to remain unmolested; and she continued in the fame posture, and with the fame unceasing flow of forrow, for about a quarter of an hour: at length she stopped, and rising from the body, " It is enough," faid she; "you are gone, and you are a bleffed inhabitant of heaven. I am left on earth to deplore the best and most beloved of friends." Ned now stepped forward, and offering her his hand, she suffered herself to be led to the arm chair, and composedly fat down. A deep filence was kept for fome minutes. At length Mr. Evans ventured to speak: " I lament, Madam," faid he, " with the deepest and most unfeigned forrow, the fatal event which has procured me the honour of feeing you in this house: nevertheless, it is a consolation to me, that my fon here has been the means of affording you some relief, and of conducting you to this humble habitation; and I promite you, both for my wife and for myfelf, that you cannot oblige us more than by confidering yourfelf at home, and making use of tuch accommodation as it affords, as long as it may be necessary or agreeable to you to stay." " Yes, indeed,

indeed, Madam," faid Mrs. Evans, " both my husband and I will think it the happiest incident in our lives to accommodate you on this melancholy occasion; and we only lament that our entertainment cannot be equal to what from your appearance, you have been accustomed to: but, fuch as it is, we hope you will accept it."
"Yes, Madam, replied the lady, "I will gladly and thankfully accept it; and I think myfelf happy that when fo fudden and fo dreadful a calamity came upon me, Providence has graciously conducted me to such hospitable and benevolent minds as yours." Then, turning to Ned, the faid, " I find it is to you, young gentleman, I am indebted for this generous deliverance. I beg your pardon, I ought indeed to have recollected it before; but the fad confufion of my thoughts and hurry of my spirits must plead my excuse. I am glad, however, that I now know you for my protector and deliverer; and you may affure yourfelf that my gratitude shall cease only with my life."

Ned's face was covered with blushes; but prefently recollecting himself, "Dear lady," he faid, "your condescension overwhelms me; you owe me no gratitude: I did nothing but my duty, and what was the duty of every man on the like occasion; and had my life been the forfeit of it, I should gladly have given it to rescue yours." "That you have ventured it indeed," faid the lady, " is abundantly apparent, and I should be unworthy of the protection you have afforded me, if I should ever forget it." She now asked for a glass of water, which being brought her, Mr. Evans told her that he was extremely forry it was out of his power, at that time, to alk her to qualify it with any better liquot have indeed," faid he, " fome excellent ale of

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my own brewing, which, if you ever tafte that liquor, I can venture to recommend: but as for wine, Madam, I am but a poor curate, and never was mafter of a dozen in all my life; though could I have foreseen the honour of having you. for my guest, I should have taken care not to have been wholly unprovided." She thanked him with an obliging smile, and told him that at that time no liquor whatever was so agreeable to her as pure fpring water. "I am forry, indeed," faid she, " for your own fake, that fortune has not bestowed on you whatever is thought comfortable in life: but for myfelf, I entreat you will not give yourfelf the smallest uneafiness. I trust that in a few days I shall be able to continue my journey to Ireland, where my friends live, and where I am extremely anxious to be; in the mean time I must be indebted to you for the protection of your house, which is all I stand in need of at present, and shall cheerfully and thankfully put up with your own fare, whatever it may be."

Mrs. Evans then asked her if she could not be prevailed on to eat a bit of something; " there is very good butter and cheefe in the house," said she, "and if you could fancy it, I could get you a Welch rabbit in a few minutes:" the lady affored her that the could not tafte any thing, but would be obliged to her, if, as foon as was convenient, the would thew her to her chamber. The good woman replied, that the believed her room was by that time ready; that she would go and see; and when it was, would immediately come back and conduct her to it. In a short time she returned with a candle; and the lady rifing, curtified to the two gentlemen, and wished them a good night. As the passed the body of her departed friend. the stopped

stopped for about a minute, and contemplated it in silence; she then took one of the hands, and, stooping down, kissed it with impassioned tenderness; her eyes swimming in tears were raised to heaven, and her lips seemed to say something, though her voice was not heard. She then rose, and wiping her tears with a cambrick handkerchief, withdrew.

The two gentlemen who were standing sollowed her with their eyes, and bowing as she went out of the room, remained fixed in thought for some time afterwards. Evans at length broke silence—" Go, my dear boy," said he to Ned, into the kitchen, and see that all the baggage of these unfortunate ladies be brought into the house: let the horses be taken care of as well as they can, and let the poor lads have a good fire, and plenty of ale to comfort them after this sad adventure."

Ned immediately went, and found things already taken care of in the manner prescribed. There was a lad at the house, one David Morgan, the son of a man who had lived as a farmfervant with Mr. Evans ever fince he had come to that part of the country; this lad was much about Ned's age and fize, a flurdy well-looking fellow as any of his station in the country; and as they had been brought up boys together, there subfifted a friendship and attachment between them, which made David a frequent inmate of the house, though he was not a regular servant in it. This lad was entertaining the two postillions, after having helped them with their horses, and trunks, &c. and extolling his young master's prowess and his own. "Ah!" says he, " if I had been there with young maister, those scoundrel robbers should not have escaped." "Why, what would you have done?" faid one

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of the postillions. "We would have lent them fuch a flick," faid David, " as they would never have been cured of but by the gallows." " Mayhap you would have found yourselves mistaken," said the other; "why they had fire arms with them, and what could you have done then?" "Why the same as maister did with one of them," faid David. "Damn them and their fire arms together! if the Devil had been with them, with a pistol as big as Bangor steeple, I would na ha fear'd 'un, provided I had a prayer-book in my pocket, and young maister at my back." " Hut you fool you," faid Ned just then entering, "hold your tongue and drink your ale: it is not a week fince I faw you frightened almost to death by farmer Watkin's white horse." "True, maister," said the other, "but then I took him for a ghost! I own I's woundily afraid of dead men, but I do not fear any living man that ever wore a head." "Then," faid Ned, "you are just the reverse of me; for I do not fear any dead man; but I will not be fo vain as to affert that no living man could alarm me. But that is neither here nor there—are all the things brought fafe out of the carriage, and are the horses fed?" Being answered in the affirmative, he told them they might fit on then and drink their ale, but charged them to make no noise, lest they should disturb the poor lady who had gone to her repose; and so saying, he returned to the parlour.

It was now growing late, and as there were but two beds in the house, one of which the lady occupied, Ned asked his father if he would not come and sleep with him; for, as for Mrs. Evans, she slept upon a pallet in the same chamber with the lady. Mr. Evans replied, that the sad adventure of the evening had driven all sleep out of his head. "Besides, my dear," said he, "you know decency requires that some person should sit up with the corpse. Go, then, my dear boy, go you to your bed; you cannot be otherwise than satigued; but as for me, I shall

fit here until the morning."

Ned then retired to rest; where we will leave him to that sound and refreshing sleep which innocence of mind, and health of body, never fail to bestow. Mr. Evans spent the greatest part of the night in prayer, as was his custom when any unusual accident befel him; and when he was not on his knees, he relieved himself by reading "Sherlock upon Death," a book which he extremely admired, and which of all others seems best calculated to give comfort and consolation to an afflicted heart.

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## CHAP. III.

ED rose as soon as it was day; and being impatient to hear fomething of the lady, went immediately to the parlour to his father. "Well, Sir," faid he, "what tidings have you heard of our unfortunate lodger, and do you know how the has passed the night?" " I have not heard a word," faid Mr. Evans, "nor feen a creature but the maid, who has just been here to make up the fire; but go, my dear, and bid her tap at the door, and ask your mother how she is." Ned did as directed, and then went out to fee about the horses and postillions: they were up getting ready to go away. He defired them to go into the house, and get some cheese and ale for their breakfast, and not to go away without leeing his father. He then returned to the parour, where he found Mrs. Evans fitting with her husband; when asking about the lady, ' Alas!" faid the, " poor foul, the has not losed her eyes the whole night, and indeed I m greatly alarmed for her health. She complains of a violent pain in her head and back, nd is continually thivering with cold, though o the touch she is like a coal of fire. I am gong to make her a little warm tea, which perlaps may throw her into a perspiration, and be f service to her." "Do, my dear," faid Evans, and I think it would be prudent to fend to Conway for Doctor Jones, for God knows how her

IAP.

her illness may turn out." This thought was highly approved of, and Ned faid that he would be himself the messenger, in order to be sure to bring him, let him be where he would; and now going out to order the horse, the postillions told him he should be welcome to a feat in their chaife, and they would engage to carry him quicker than any other conveyance. This was accepted of; and Mr. Evans finding the chaife had been paid for by the ladies at Conway, gave the lads half-a-crown each, in reward for their activity and attention; and Ned hastily taking off a bowl of milk, and eating a crust with it, fet off at full speed with them. He got to Conway in little more than an hour, and was lucky enough to find Doctor Jones at home. doctor was not a regular physician, but had long practifed as a furgeon and anothecary with good reputation. He was a benevoient and humane man; qualities which are peculiarly necessary in his profession, and which often do more in curing a patient than the drugs he swallows. When the doctor heard the tale, it awakened all his feelings: "I will go with you, my friend," faid he, "in ten minutes; I will only order other horses for expedition, and I will take back the chaife at my own expence; for, exclusive of the lady who calls for all tenderness and attention, I would go to the world's end to ferve your father or any of his family." Ned thanked him for his kindness; and now finding that a chaise was to carry him back, he took care to get a dozen of the best wine that could be had in Conway, that the poor lady might want no comfort that could be procured for her. The rumour of the robbery and murder had reached Conway the night before; but now that Ned and the postillions appeared, every body crowded about them ht was would ure to ; and tillions n their y him is was chaife , gave r their taking ith it, o Conlucky The d long a good umane fary in n cur-When is feel-," faid r other ack the of the tion, I father im for ife was dozen onway, ort that of the vay the postil-

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to hear the particulars. He fatisfied them as concifely as he could, and then fet off with the doctor for his father's, accompanied with the praises and the bleffings of all who had heard the flory. The lads drove at a good rate, and when Mr. Evans heard the chaife, gueffing by its return that the doctor was come, he went out to meet him. " My dear doctor," faid he, as he was alighting, "I always am glad to fee you, but never did your presence give me so much pleafure as at this instant; I am infinitely obliged to you for the hafte you have made to vifit my unfortunate guest, whose fituation is so distressing, that all the tenderness and attention we can pay to her is not equal to her claim upon us for it." " Her fituation is deplorable indeed," replied the doctor, " and her claim for attention and tenderness as great: it is a consolation, however, to know that the has happened among those who can fully feel for her; and whose tympathetic hearts will do every thing that can alleviate her distress. Does she know," continued he, "that I have been fent for, or was it only a mere motion of your own?" "She knows nothing about it," replied Mr. Evans; "my wife represented her to me in such a situation as I thought alarming; and as in all distempers much may be done in the beginning, which, if that opportunity be loft, may never be able to be done afterwards, I took the liberty to fend for you of my own head, without confulting her on the subject, which might perhaps have alarmed her more, and could answer no good end that I can see." "You have done wifely," replied the doctor; "it is of no confequence who lent for me, nor did I afk the question with any other view than merely to know the fact before I speak to herself; it is enough for me that she is in diffress, and that fhe

the wants medical affiftance; and I shall be happy, my dear friend, to go hand in hand with you in giving her that and every other affistance she may happen to want." "You speak like a gentleman and a christian," replied Evans, " and I only pray that our affistance may be effectual." Mrs. Evans now came down; and the doctor, after the first falutation, enquiring about the lady, she told him she was just then in a doze, but it did not feem like one that would refresh her; the breathed hard, and started often, and sometimes muttered fomething which she could not understand. "Will you step up yourself, doctor, and look at her, and you will be better able to judge?" " No, my dear madam," replied the doctor, " I will not go to her till she is apprised of my coming. If she happened to wake while I was at her bed-fide, there is no faying what effect the feeing a stranger in her room might have upon her in her prefent weak condition. Be you fo good as to return to her, and fit by her till she wakes; and then tell her, that feeing her out of order, you took the liberty to fend for me as I lived in the neighbourhood, and ask her leave to bring me to her." "I believe indeed you are right," replied Mrs. Evans; "her spirits are so fluttered that she could not bear furprife of any kind; I will go and do as you bid me, and return again as foon as I am authorised." Mr. Evans then offered the doctor some refreshment; and he faid he would take a bit of dry toast and some mulled ale, for the day was cold, and he had come off without any breakfast. They talked of indifferent matters while this was preparing; and when it came, Ned's stomach was fo complaifant as to enable him to affift the doctor very effectually in demolishing the ale and toast, together with half-a-dozen

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eggs that they got boiled. They had scarcely finished when Mrs. Evans came down, and acquainted the doctor that the lady had waked, and readily confented to fee him. He immediately followed her up stairs; when he came to the bed fide, and beheld the lovely object he came to fee, he could not suppress the emotion her beauty and her diffress inspired-he was obliged to turn afide his head to conceal the manly tear which trembled in his eye. The voice of the lady recalled him to himself. " I am obliged to you, Sir," faid she, " and to this kind gentlewoman, for the tender concern you feem to take for my health: I was in hopes to have been able to continue my journey home; but alas! I am very unable even to speak; and if Providence defigns to make this my home, his will be done; I think I am content." " Oh, my dear madam !" replied the doctor, " I truft you have many, many years of health and happiness before you yet. It is natural, and what might be expected, that the violent shock your spirits have received should have an effect on your health, but I trust there is no reason to apprehend but that rest and a little time will perfectly restore you." The lady gazed on him with a languid eye for a little time: at length she spoke again. "Oh! Mrs. Melville-Sir-my dear Mrs. Melville-have you feen her? The robbers did not kill her-they could not kill her-has she slept, Sir ?-do tell me, has fhe flept?" The doctor now perceived that she was raving, and that the dreadful accident of the night before had brought a fever on her spirits: he selt her pulse; and finding them extremely low, he told Mrs. Evans, that, for the prefent, there was nothing to be done but to keep her quiet—that rest was of the greatest importance to her—that the least sudden

noise might prove fatal, or drive her into madnels—that the must be foothed, and croffed in nothing; and for nourishment she might give her a little wine whey, acidulated with juice of lemon, or a little cream of tartar; but that bleeding, or any thing of that kind, was highly improper. "All that can be done at prefent is to keep her quiet, and endeavour to support her strength. I will call again to-morrow," faid he, " and even stay with her, should it become necessary." He now left the room totally unobserved by the lady, who indeed was not in a

condition to observe any thing.

When he came to the parlour, Mr. Evans faw by his countenance the fituation of the lady; he was anxious, yet afraid to ask him what he thought of her. The doctor relieved him from this embarrassment: " It is happy, my dear friend," faid he, " that you fent for me; vaftly fortunate that I chanced to be in the way. This poor lady is in a most alarming situation, in a fever of the most critical and dangerous kind; it is not, however, infectious, nor need you fear that your humanity will be any otherwise wounded than in seeing this unfortunate lady die." "What!" interrupted Ned in an agony of diffress, " is she dying?" "No, no!" replied the doctor, "I do not fay that-God forbid !- I only mean that her illness is of a very dangerous kind, and her symptoms at present unfavourable. I do not despair, however, but that with the blessing of God, she may come through." " May God Almighty graciously bestow that blessing upon us!" faid Evans-" and I trust he will, fince it furely was by his inspiration that I fent for you." The doctor then repeated to Mr. Evans the directions he had given above stairs to his wife,

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e diwife, and and when mentioned wine whey, "Good God!" faid Evans, " how forgetful I am! I protest there is not a drop of wine in the house. Oh! that I had thought of fending for it in the morning to Conway!" " Do not be uneasy on that head, my dear Sir," faid Ned; "I have taken care of that, and brought in the chaife a dozen of the best I could get." "Have you indeed?" faid Evans; "I rejoice at that, and cannot but admire and love that attention which I have always feen you pay to every person in distress." "Oh!" faid Ned, "this lady's diffress is enough to awake attention in a stone." "It is indeed," replied the doctor; and now finding the day advanced beyond the moon, he faid his other patients required his attendance, and he must therefore return to Conway, but promised to be back again the next day. "To-morrow," faid Mr. Evans, " is Sunday, and therefore I shall be engaged all the morning; but do, my dear friend, contrive matters to as to flay and eat a bit of my own mutton with me; I shall be grieved if, when I come from church, I should find you gone." The doctor faid he could not promife for staying, as it depended upon his other patients whether he could do it with propriety or not; but that if he could, he would, So faying, he took leave; and Mr. Evans and Ned attending him to the door, he got into the chaife and drove off.

The rest of the day passed off in a thoughtful and serious manner, which, on Mr. Evans's part, was not uncommon, as he usually dedicated the evening of Saturday to the contemplation of his important duty the following day: but Ned's spirits were not used to be depressed;

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and indeed it required fomething very folemn and affecting to keep him ferious half an hour together, for his heart by nature was tuned to gaiety, which he had neither art nor necessity to conceal, and which diffused an air of cheerfulness over his countenance that did not at all accord with gravity and fedateness. In the evening, preparations were made for paying the last fad office to Mrs. Melville, who was still lying in the same spot where the postillions had deposited her. It was intended to inter her the following evening after prayer. Mrs. Evans therefore took care to have her properly dreffed for the grave, and laid by her other clothes, and particularly her pockets, without examining their contents, in a place where they would be secure. When her coffin came home, Mr. Evans had her removed to an out-house, that the melancholy found of nailing her up in it might not reach the ears of the lady above stairs, who was not able to bear noise of any kind, and least of all that which, if she suspected the occasion, would probably fit her for the same fad fervice. With regard to her situation, there was no material alteration in it. She continued extremely low and languid, sometimes in her fenses, and fometimes wandering. She scarce ever spoke, except for a little drink. She did not appear to fleep, which, if it could be procured, was the best thing for her, but which hitherto the had not been able to do, at least in that quiet and composed manner which alone could tend to restore her. At night Mr. Evans and Ned fat down to their supper and finished the most filent and thoughtful meal they had ever eaten together. Soon after they retired to the

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the same bed to rest. Youth and health soon procured Ned the blessing of quiet sleep; but Mr. Evans, notwithstanding his having sat up the night before, continued the greatest part of this night also in meditation and prayer.

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## CHAP. IV.

HE morning rose, and with it both the gen-Ned was first dressed, and hastening up to the lady's apartment, tapped, with a timorous heart, at the door. Mrs. Evans opened it, and told him she could not perceive any material alteration; that she had been for the most part quiet, but without any refreshing sleep. If at any time she chanced to slumber, it was only for a few minutes, when she awoke in a terror; and the thought these slumbers did her more hurt than good. Poor Ned received the intelligence with a downcast look, and communicated it to his father, who partook of his forrow. "Yet let us not be altogether cast down, my boy, it is possible she may yet do well: and I shall, this day, in the church, offer up the prayers of the congregation, to befeech Almighty God to spare her to us."

They now went to breakfast, which on Ned's part was bread and milk, to which the parson (especially on Sunday) added a piece of cheese and a pint of warm ale. Cheese and ale are to a Welchman nectar and ambrosia; and our good curate, who loved hospitality as far as his circumstances would allow, took care to be always provided with plenty of both, and that the best of their kind.

When breakfast was over, he retired to prepare himself for church, whither he went as

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foon as he was dreffed; but Ned staid at home that he might be in the way to receive the doctor when he came, and to execute any directions he might leave in case he could not stay dinner. The church was about half a mile from the house; and well attended by many genteel families in the neighbourhood, as well as by a numerous congregation of inferior note; all of whom respected Evans as a father, and could not fail to be virtuous as far as they followed either his precepts or example. His fermons were of that plain and natural kind which were fuited to every understanding, and always upon topics which came home to every man's heart. He did not dwell on those abstruse doctrines, which, after all that can be faid of them, must for ever remain inexplicable; but he enlarged on those important duties in which all christians are agreed, and which the divine Author of our religion has prescribed, in order to adorn and exalt our nature-to foften and correct the heart; that every man being guided by the dictates of right reason, and by faith in the promises of God, might regulate his life accordingly, and thereby enfure himself respect in this world, and everlasting happiness in the next.

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These discourses he delivered in a distinct and not ungraceful manner; and he must be either a very abandoned or very inattentive hearer indeed, who could be present at them without being asserted by them. On this day he chose for his subject, the shortness and extreme uncertainty of life; and spoke upon it with an unusual degree of eloquence and servor. He alluded to the statal and recent example which was at that time in his own house; and the whole sermon was a kind of suneral oration on the unfortunate Mrs. Melville, whose obsequies were to be performed

in the evening. When fervice was over, most of the congregation crowded about him to alk about the unfortunate lady at his house, and to inform themselves of all the circumstances of the melancholy event: he had the pleasure to find Ned's conduct univerfally approved, and his praises echoed by every tongue; and he had likewise the satisfaction to receive many friendly offers of affistance on this occasion, and some of them of a very generous kind; a pleasing testimony how much he was esteemed and beloved by his people, and that his preaching had not been in vain. These offers, however, as they were not necessary, he politely declined; but not without warm commendations of their benevolence, as well as thanks for their kindness; and, mounting his horse, returned home, followed by the bleffings and the prayers of his parishioners.

When he got to his own house, Ned met him at the door, and informed him that the doctor had not yet come, and that the poor lady was in the same way. This intelligence neither furprifed nor disappointed him; he was rather pleafed the doctor had not arrived, as it gave him greater hopes of his staying; and, at any rate, he would be glad to hear from himself his opinion of his unfortunate patient. In about a quarter of an hour he came; and, after first fending for Mrs. Evans, and confulting with her, he followed her up stairs to the lady. Evans and Ned remained below, in filent and penfive expectation of his return. At length he came down with the comfortless intelligence, that she was certainly no better, but rather otherwise; "though not fo much fo," faid he, " as to make me despond altogether. It is the nature of these nervous fevers to be slow and lingering, and to keep us long in suspense; I have sometimes

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times feen patients fo reduced as to appear altogether dead, yet afterwards recover and do well. I have brought here some medicines in my pocket, which you will cause to be given to her as directed." Here he took out some phials, the contents and operations of which it is unneceffary here to relate. "The best medicine," faid he, "for her, is quiet and composed sleep; which. if we could procure from nature, I should not wholly despair; but it must not be forced." Mr. Evans promifed that all his directions should be punctually followed; and Ned's face, which, was the picture of distress before, began to refume its usual ferenity, merely on the slender.

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The doctor now endeavoured to divert them to other topics; and among the rest, told them, that a suspicious fellow, who could not give a very good account of himself, had been taken up at Conway the night before, and was then in the jail-he had been examined before a magistrate, but nothing appeared that could convict him. He then faid he thought Ned had better fee him, as he might possibly know him again, or might embarrass him with questions that might tend to a discovery. Ned said he had no objection in the world to fee him, and would go to the end of the earth to bring the villains to justice; but at the same time confessed he should be very tender how he swore any man's life away, or even give suspicions of his character. "In the present case," said he, "I fear I can be of little use; for unluckily it was so dark that I have not the smallest idea of the face or persons of the villains who attacked the chaise. All I know is, I knocked one of them down, and I am fure I hit him on the head. I'll warrant he bears the mark of the stick; and if this

man you talk of has any such mark, it will be at least a good reason for detaining him in custody. To-night," said he, "I must attend the funeral of Mrs. Melville; but I will go to Conway in the morning, and, if you are at leisure, we will go together to the prison." The doctor replied, he should be happy to attend him, and asked him to come early in the morning and breakfast with him, and bring him a particular account of the lady; and when they had done with the prisoner, they would return together to Mr. Evans's.

Dinner was now brought in, which confifted of a leg of mutton and turnips. The parson's pudding, which he usually indulged himself in on Sunday, was obliged to be omitted; because Mrs. Evans, who always made it, and who understood the composition of a pudding as well as any woman in England, was too much engaged in her tender and humane attendance on the unhappy lady, to admit of her absence for a moment, or her occupying herfelf with any other business: its place was supplied with a double allowance of toasted cheese; a fare no less agreeable either to the parfon or phyfician; and which, accompanied with excellent ale, was given by Evans, and accepted by the doctor, with all the good humour which the most open hospitality and the truest friendship could inipire.

Oh! ye great ones of the earth! ye who are clothed in purple and fine linen, and who fare fumptuously every day! ye who worship Luxury, and make your vows before her golden shrine!—know that ye are far from her!—Would you discover her true residence, leave your luxurious feasts, and idle pomp! seek her in the humble dwelling of contentment! find

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her in the simple meal which cheerful hospitality bestows, where health sits smiling at the table, and appetite produced by temperance gives

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Such was the meal which our good curate and the doctor now enjoyed; and which, after returning thanks to the great bestower (a ceremony now generally omitted where much has been bestowed,) they washed down with a temperate glass of ale; socially conversing on various subjects, in which Ned bore his part, till the hour of evening prayer approached, which on this day was rather earlier than usual in order to give time for performing the last rites to Mrs. Melville.

The doctor attended Mr. Evans to the church, which in compliment to the lady was uncommonly full; and after the service was finished, she was interred in the body of the church, as you approach the steps leading to the communion-table, in the spot where Evans himself intended to be laid whenever it should please God to take him! The awful and affecting fervice appointed for this occasion he read with a becoming dignity; and though the unfortunate deceased was so unhappy as to die among strangers and to have her last rites performed by persons wholly unknown to her, and uninterested in her concerns, yet it is a doubt whether in any fituation her funeral would have been more respectably attended, or her remains deposited with a greater effusion of sincere and heart felt forrow.

When all was finished, the doctor went home to Conway, not without reminding Ned of his promite to be with him in the morning, who affured him he should not forget it; and then he and Mr. Evans returned to the house. The

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rest of the day was spent, as Evans always spent his Sunday evening, in sober and religious conversation; in reading sermons of the most approved authors; and in instructing Ned in that most useful of all knowledge, the knowledge of

himself and of his Maker.

Ned listened to his instructions, not only with attention but delight: for, though he was by nature of a gay and lively disposition, and of a conflitution of body active and vigorous to the highest degree; though he loved diversion, and excelled in all those exercises with which young men of his age are usually delighted, yet the acquisition of knowledge had charms for him still more attracting. His understanding was clear and penetrating; his heart warm and affectionate. Every thing that was grand and fublime interested the one, every thing delicate and refined touched the other. The history of the gospel, therefore, which eminently unites whatever is fublime and whatever is beautiful, could not fail to affect his heart : he loved Chriftianity because it is indeed levely, and he practised it because it was congenial to his feelings, without hypocrify, and without enthusiasm. I would not have the reader imagine, however, that he was an angel or a faint. Alas! he was human, and, as all human creatures do, he erred. His errors, however, were not those of a bad or a corrupt heart; not fuch as difgraced his honour or his fentiments: they were the failings of nature, under temptations sometimes too powerful to be refisted, yet always repented of, and always atoned for, as far as he was able.

While Mr. Evans and his fon were thus pioully and instructively employed, they were interrupted by the arrival of two visitors, who Imetimes came to drink tea on a Sunday even11

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nng ing with Mrs. Evans. Tea was a luxury that did not fuit with their finances to indulge in every day; but as Mrs. Evans was fond of it, though far too prudent to allow herfelf any gratification which their income was not fully equal to, the use of it was confined to Sunday evening, and to such occasional times as they happened to be visited by any person whose situation in life made it necessary to offer it to them.

The vifitors who now arrived were Mrs. Watkin and her daughter, the wife and only child of the farmer in the neighbourhood, whose white horse, as we have before noticed, was taken for a ghost by David Morgan. Mrs. Watkin was one of those good kind of women who are not to be met with every day. Her education and understanding were on the ordinary level of those of her rank; her temper was good, and her disposition meek and submitting: and happy was it for her that it was fo, for she was yoked to a very imperious and fevere hufband. Watkin was a man between fifty and fixty years of age, of a large person and austere countenance; his temper was aniwerable; fevere and unaccommodating; yet, on some occasions, he appeared not wholly divested of good: nature. He had the reputation of being fcrupuloufly honest, and of professing great skill in his business. His greatest fault was the love of money, to which he facrificed every thing except integrity; and as he had long been in possession. of a lucrative farm, which he managed with superior skill, it was universally supposed that he was worth a round fum. His wife however, and his daughter, were for the present but little: benefited by it. His pride indeed always furnished them with decent clothes to appear in when they went abroad; but this was a pleafure

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he feldom allowed them, as he hated company himself, or whatever else was in the smallest degree expensive. He had indeed a respect for Evans, as every body had who knew him, and he would fometimes relax fo far as to drink a can of ale at his house, and give him one in return; but this was very feldom; and for the most part he staid at home, minding his own concerns, and never troubling himself about other people's. The daughter was a sensible and a goodhumoured girl, but rather plain in her person; her education was confined to reading and writing, plain needle-work, and above all, domestic concerns. She had, however, a sensible and a feeling heart, with great fweetness and opennels of temper; was about twenty years of age; and, as the was an only child, and her father rich, the was thought to be a defirable wife for almost any young man in the neighbour-

As foon as Mr. Evans faw them, he welcomed them in the kindest manner; he laid by his spectacles and his book, and he stirred the fire, while Ned handed them chairs, and affifted them in taking off their cloaks and laying them by. Mr. Evans enquired after his good friend Mr. Watkin, and then told the ladies he was afraid his wife would not be able to quit the poor lady's apartment, which the constantly attended both day and night; " but if you can endure me," favs he, " I will endeavour to be as agreeable as I can: or, if you like a young man better, as may possibly be the case, I can answer for Ned's doing every thing he can to entertain you." Ned faid he was never fo happy as when employed in the fervice of the ladies; that he would step up and tell his mother; and if the could not come down, he would endeavour

deavour to supply her place himself, provided Miss Watkin would make tea Miss Watkin bowed consent; and Ned immediately went up stairs.

Mrs. Evans told him that the lady was then quiet, and had been so some time; that she would go down and see Mrs. Watkin and her daughter; and leave the maid in the room till her return, with directions to come to her if the lady should want any thing. Ned sent the maid up stairs, and returned to the parlour, whither he was soon after sollowed by Mrs. Evans, who had a great regard both for Mrs. Watkin and her daughter, and was always very

glad to fee them.

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Mrs. Watkin told Mrs. Evans, that her vifit was not altogether intended as a vifit of mere ceremony or curiofity; "nor indeed," faid the, " should I have come at all, at this time, knowing how much you must be engaged, but with the hope of giving you some relief. I hear that you watch continually in the poor lady's apartment, and that you have not been in bed thefe two nights. My daughter and I have been exceedingly anxious for your own health, and the made me come here this evening to offer you her affistance as far as she is able."-" Yes, indeed, Madam," faid Miss Watkin, "you cannot oblige me more than by allowing me to flay with you for a little time, and relieve you in fitting up with the lady; and my father too was very willing I should come, and do any thing for you that I could." Mrs. Evans faid the had been extremely obliged to them all upon many occasions, but upon none more than the present;—she thanked her in the warmest manmer for her kind attention, and accepted the offer with the greatest gratitude. Evans too was heartily

heart ly rejoiced, who, by this means, would fometimes fee his wife again, whose company he never liked to be long without; and Ned too was not displeased to have a third person, to enliven those serious tête à têtes he had with his father. All parties were pleased; and the introduction of tea, and an enormous plate of toast fwimming in butter, contributed to make this evening much more agreeable than the two last, particularly as they were now rid of the awful spectacle which before occupied great part of the room, and the poor lady above having been more composed than she had hitherto been, they gave way to the pleasing hope that she was on the mending hand.

They spent a couple of hours together, cheerfully and innocently, without being interrupted by any message from above stairs; and then Mrs. Watkin rising to go home, Ned said he would attend her. She had a boy and horses with her; but this did not prevent Ned from seeing her to her own house. He rode the horse which carried Miss Watkin, who remained at his sather's; and having delivered Mrs. Watkin safe into the hands of her husband, he left the horse and re-

Mr. Evans always concluded Sunday evening with family prayer. Miss Watkin and Mrs. Evans went up as foon as it was over; and he retired with his fon to bed, where in a few minutes they were both found asleep.

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## And the hard sector is a finished to be completely or CHAP. V.

vida jereka bana arelanga katana nyangarajaniand the second exploration was a self-will and the A HERE is a great affinity between the chapters of a novel and the acts of a playthey are so many pauses in the narration, which should always be determined by similar paufes in the story they relate or represent. I do not, indeed, think it necessary, as some great critics, and particularly the French, pretend, that the whole story of a play should be confined, with respect to the possibility of its happening, to the exact space and time of the representation; at the same time I confess, that the liberties which the immortal Shakespear often takes, of crowding years into minutes, and hurrying us from one country to another, are equally unnatural and dilguiting.

I could admit almost of any liberty in this respect, provided there is a pause in the reprefentation. The judicious diffribution of plays into five separate acts, and the music which intervenes, relieves the attention, and enables the poet to take advantage of that circumstance to carry the audience where he will, without thocking probability, because I can allow any time to pals while the representation is suspended; and, at the beginning of a new act, it is equal to me whether I am let down in England or in France.—It is the same way in novels, which indeed, being read and not represented, admit of greater latitude as to the unities of place and

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time than plays, yet are not wholly free from restraint, but to be agreeable must be natural, and never shock the mind by any thing highly improbable, nor distract it by too often shifting the story from one country to another;—and wherever it is necessary to be done, it should be contrived in separate books or chapters, where the narration naturally pauses, and suffers no-

thing by the interruption.

I have been led into this digression by reslecting on the conclusion of my three last chapters or acts, wherein I have judiciously laid all my actors fast asleep; and if the events I am relating have not sufficient merit to interest the attention of my readers, I heartily and fincerely wish they may have the power to lay them in the fame condition; fince, next to being ufefully employed, or agreeably entertained, I know no state more delightful than found sleep -and, indeed, I have heard fome, who very feldom could procure it, fay they preferred it to any entertainment whatfoever. If any of my readers, therefore, thould experience this benefit, let them not on that account decry the work -but, with due gratitude to the author, recommend it to others as an opiate, full as effectual, and far more tafe than laudanum or poppies.

It is now time for Mr. Edward to make off his poppies, and accordingly we must now behold him rising early in the morning, and carefully getting out of bed, lest he thould disturb his good father, who was still inoring. As soon as he was dressed, he went out to the stable, to get the horse ready to go to Conway. Ned loved horses, and was as fond of handling them himself, and as skiltul in every thing that belonged to them, as if he had been bred a groom. He combed and curried old Blackbird,

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till he made him look as fpruce and as gloffy as the bird whose name he bore; and having got Morgan to black his boots, and to clean his plated fours, he feemed as neatly equipped for \* the faddle as any young man need to be. He then returned to the house in order to enquire about the lady, and, if his father was awake, to ask if he had any commands to Conway. went up to his mother's room, and tapping at the door, it was opened by Mrs. Evans. From her he learned that the lady had been composed most of the night, and she hoped had got some ileep; but that the never tooke except when once or twice she had asked for a little drink. He now went down with the intention of feeing his father; but before he approached the door, he was informed by the mutic of his note that he was still asleep; wherefore, unwilling to dilturb him, he went to the stable; and taking out old Blackbird, who had just finished a good feed of oats, he patted him awhile on the neck, and then vaulting into the faddle, rode off.

When he came to Conway, he found the doctor and his wife ready to receive him; the tea-things were fpread upon the table, and they only waited his arrival to bring the kettle, which was followed by a large plate of toast and butter, and another with boiled eggs. After mutual compliments and enquiries about the lady, they sat down to breakfast, where Ned, whose appetite was increased by his ride, did due honour to what was provided for him: he demolished, indeed, more than half the toast, together with four of the eggs, and washed them down with a proportionable quantity of tea.

When breakfast was finished, the doctor and Ned proceeded to the jail, to see the unfortunate man who was confined there, and to try to dif-

cover if he was one of the villains who were the authors of the tragical event that happened a few evenings before. This was the first time in his life that Edward had ever been within the doors of a prison; and though he had nothing to apprehend from it for himself, yet his feelings were too delicate, his heart too tender, to suffer him to enter it without concern. This was much increased when he was introduced into the room where the man was confined. The wretched and gloomy look of this receptacle of guilt and mifery struck him with a universal horror. It was a fmall room dimly illuminated by a diminutive and dirty window, raifed high from the ground, and fecured by an iron grating within and without. The few gleams of light which were able to penetrate through the crust of fith with which the glass was covered, served only to discover fights of woe. The walls were bare plaster, which, in most places, was mouldering away; they had once been whitewashed, but smoke and damp had every where so discoloured them that nothing like white could be feen. There was, indeed, a fire-place in the room, with small rusty bars by way of a grate; but not a spark of fire, nor any appearance of there having been any for years, though the feason of the year and the dampness greatly required one. An old and broken truckle bed, with some straw in it, lay in a dark corner; and on this was the miferable object whom they came to see stretched, shivering under a tattered blanket, when they entered the room. "Good God!" thought Ned in his own mind, " should this man be innocent, what amends can be made to him for placing him in this miserable situation?" Again the supposition that he fired the guilty shot, by which an innocent lady was already

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ready dead, and another in imminent hazard of her life, suppressed these tender emotions, and raifed a conflict in his mind, which was strong ly pictured in his countenance, but which would be extremely difficult either to paint or to describe. The doctor, to whom scenes of horror were more familiar, approached the bed, and, calling to the prisoner, told him there was a young gentleman that wished to see him. The man raifed himself on his arm, and discovered a face on which calamity was deeply engraven. His appearance was fordid and filthy, for he had not been washed since he was committed: he had on a black wig, that feemed not to fit him, and to be much the worfe for the wear; and then rolling his gloomy eye-ball upon Edward, he asked, in an indignant and surly tone, what business he had with him?

Ned was somewhat staggered with the queftion:—but foon recovering himself, replied, that perhaps he might have no business at all with him, and he fincerely wished it might be so; but that depended on his own innocence or guilt:—that a few evenings before, a most barbarous and atrocious murder had been committed on an unhappy lady by two highwaymen; and that another lady, who had been with her, was then in great danger of her life:-that Providence had brought him to their affiltance, and that he had himself given one of the villains fuch a blow on the head as brought him to the ground, though he afterwards escaped; and that hearing a suspicious person had been taken up, he had defired to fee him, to know whether he could recollect him. " Well," faid the fellow, "what do you know of me, now you fee me?" "Why I confess," said Ned, "I cannot fay that I know any thing of you." "Then

by what right is it that I am kept here starving with hunger and with cold? Since you know nothing about me, you should go to the man that put me up here, and defire him to release me, and pay me besides for the injury I have fuffered in being put here: -but, damn you and him together! you are both of you greater rogues than I am, or you could not have done fo to an innocent man." "Friend," faid Evans, "I have nothing to do either with your commitment or release:-if you are indeed an innocent man, you have nothing to apprehend, and doubtless a satisfaction will be made you; but let me tell you, that the intemperance of your tongue does not look like innocence, which, shielded by its own rectitude, disdains so weak and so indecent a defence: the magistrate who committed you is a man of equal integrity and humanity, infinitely above the reach of any afperfion that such a tongue as yours can level at him; he shall be fent for to examine you further while I am here, and he is the only person authorised to decide on the propriety of releasing or detaining you.

Whilft Ned was thus haranguing the prisoner, the doctor had slipped out of the room, and now returned with the jailor. They then questioned the jailor respecting the want of food and other comforts, which the prisoner had complained of. The jailor replied, that as for fire there was no provision made for it by the county, and that the man had resuled to pay for any, and therefore he wanted it; but that for food he had sent him some of his own dinner, which the other, in a fit of sullenness, had also resuled, and damned the person that carried it to him; so that if he wanted necessaries, it was entirely his own fault. To all this the prisoner made no reply, but sat sullen

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fullen on the bed fide; the jailor approaching him, faid he had better wash and shave himself. "You shall have a shirt of my own," he said, " while yours is washed; and if you will give me your wig here," continued he, "I will get it combed." This he faid by agreement with the doctor, and at the same time attempted to take it off his head; but it was tied under his chin. The fellow, upon feeling the attempt upon his wig, got up in a rage, and, clapping both his hands to it, " Damn you?" faid he, " have you a mind to rob me of the little I have left? There's ne'er a one of you, by G-, shall take my wig, without taking my life first." The jaifor was not at all discomfitted by this declaration: " As for your wig," fays he, "I care nothing about it; but, by G-, I'll fee what colour your hair is of." And fo faying, he pulled harder at the bob, which, however, was too well fastened to give way; which the doctor observing, he, in an instant, cut the string with a pair of his anatomical scissars, and transferred the wig from the head of the prisoner to the fift of the jailor; and then, indeed, was discovered what was suspected before—the large and very visible marks of a recent contumon. " Hey!" faid the doctor, " what's the matter here? Why, here's a large wound. How have you got this desperate bruise, and why have not you applied for affiftance?" The fellow feemed a good deal confounded; but replied, that he had got it by a fall from his horfe; and as for doctors, he never applied to them, for he hated them, and every thing that belonged to them. "They are obliged to you," replied Jones; " nevertheless I will mend this broken head for you, and it shall cost you nothing neither." He then offered to examine it; but the fellow positively refused, and desired him

to stand off, for he should not lay a finger near it. "Well," said Jones, "you may do as you please just now; but the justice who committed you will foon be here, and then, in his presence, and in the presence of all his attendants, I will examine it whether you will or no." The doctor and Ned then left the room, and adjourned to the jailor's apartment, when they fent for the justice, and told him all the circumstances that have been related; as well those respecting the robbery, as those relative to the suspicious conduct of the prisoner. After about an hour's conversation, they agreed to go in and re-examine the prisoner, attended by some of the inferior officers of justice, in case any affiltance of theirs might be necessary. This precaution, though prudent, was now unnecessary; for whether awed by the consciousness of guilt, the new circumstance against him that had been discovered, the folemnity of the appearance of the magistrate, or the natural depression of his spirits, the prisoner had now lost every appearance of opposition, and fat on the bed-side in a state of utter despondence. The justice observed his weakness; and, being a man of the tenderest humanity, he asked him if he was ill? The prifoner faid, he was ill indeed; for he had not tafted food for two days. The justice told him, that no advantage should be taken of him; and though he came to examine him, he would wait till he was more composed." He then withdrew again to the room he had left, and ordered the jailor to carry to the unfortunate prisoner some bread and a pint of warm wine. After he had taken this refreshment, and some time had been allowed him to recollect himself, the justice (attended as before) and the gentlemen went in to

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I shall not now trouble the reader with his examination, or his answers, which were evasive and unfatisfactory. The doctor, after examining the wound, pronounced that it could not have been got by a fall from a horse, as it was on a part of the head on which it was next to an impossibility to pitch by such an accident: but it might very well have been got by a blow of a flick, which it refembled much more; and as fuch a blow had been given to one of the perfons concerned in the robbery, there was the greatest reason to believe the prisoner was that person. The justice summed up the incongruities in his account of himself; and further added, that his horse was in custody as well as himfelf, and that, in all probability, fuch further evidence would in a short time appear as would effectually condemn him if he was guilty; and it was already fo strong as to make it impossible for him to release him from prison. He therefore feriously and earnestly exhorted him, if he knew himself guilty, not to deprive himself of the merit of making a full and voluntary confession; which would turn out greatly to his advantage, and which, he pledged himself, he should not lose the benefit of. " If," fays he, " you are the person who was knocked down, it is evident you are not the person who fired the shot, and if you will give such information as can bring that murderer to justice, you shall be admitted evidence for the crown, and obtain his majesty's pardon."

This last promise had the desired effect. The unhappy man, whose heart was now softened, and who had seemed infinitely touched by the tenderness and the humanity of the justice, now burst into a flood of tears; and, with a tremu-

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lous and broken voice, confessed he was the person who was knocked down. "You have done well to confess it," replied the justice: " and now remember that you tell fairly and fully who you are, and who the wretch is that was confederated with you, that he may be brought to justice; for on the faithfulness of this confession, and the truth of your report concerning your accomplice, depends your own life, and my power of making good the promife I have given you. greet to be the best of the state of

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## CHAP. VI.

AY name," faid the unfortunate man, " is Andrew Collins; I am the only child of my mother, and she is a widow. I was born at Chester, and am, or rather lately was, servant to Mr. Nicholfon, an eminent cloth-merchant there. Mr. Nicholfon is an Irishman by birth, but is fettled at Chester, and is at present in London. When he first came to live at Chefter, about ten years ago, he brought with him a young lad from his own country, to live with him as a fervant, and he did every thing he could to make him a faithful and a skilful one. For some years he did pretty well; but as he grew up to be a man, he became idle and negligent, then drunken and extravagant, and at last wicked and abandoned in every respect.

"His master bore with him till it was not possible to bear with him any longer; and at last, about six months ago, he turned him out of his house, and would have nothing more to say to him. I happened to be hired in his place; and if I had had any grace or fear of God, I might have been happy; but, alas! I have been seduced to ruin—seduced against my sense, nay almost against my will, and all by that wicked servant, for he it is that was my tempter and my accomplice. His name is Patrick Reilly; but he sometimes calls himself Maguire, and sometimes Flanagan, but his real name is Reilly.

He is of a very strong make, a very daring courage, and of a fierce and bloody temper: though he will do any thing to get money, yet he cares little about it when he has it, but spends it in idleness and debauchery, with a show of generosity; and, alas! it was this show that has undone me.

"I never knew any thing about him till I unfortunately succeeded him in his place: he soon after contrived to get acquainted with me, and, instead of hating me as I expected, he seemed to be fond of me, and used to praise my master and own his own faults; and he often gave me good advice how to please him, and how to get about him, as he called it, which I always found successful, and I thought him the best friend I had;—but all this was to ferve his

own end, and his revenge.

"When he had got me to love him and think well of him, he would often, when there was an opportunity, treat me to liquor, and fometimes he would introduce me to some of his female acquaintances, and even give me money to pay for the favours those despicable wretches were to grant; in short, he won me to his purposes, first by affection, and then by fear:-for twice or thrice I faw him give very frout men, who had offended him, fuch desperate beatings, that I own I felt myfelf like nothing before him, and did not dare to contradict whatever he might propose. I observed he was always flush of money, though I could not tell how he came by it, nor did I ever dare to ask him; but he had from time to time given me fo much, that I began to think, if he should happen to ask me for it, that my whole wages would not be fufficient to repay it. This gave me great uneafiness; and, from the moment that I felt myself

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"I resolved to disentangle myself from him as soon as I could, but I did not know how to do it; and once that he began to grow angry at my resusing to go with him, he terrified me into instant obedience, and obliged me to ask his pardon, though I knew not for what. From that moment I was lost. He saw my condition, and

did not fail to take advantage of it.

"About a week ago my master went up in the coach to London, and left the two maids and me to take care of the house; he is not expected back this fortnight to come. The day after he went, Reilly called upon me, and asked me if I could let him have the money he lent me, for he had a fum to pay, and was in great want. I was thunderstruck at his demand; and affured him I had not half a guinea in my possession; but I told him that, as foon as my master came back, I would ask him for some, and that I would give him every shilling I got. 'Oh, damn your master!' faid he, 'that won't do for me; he mayn't come this month !—I want my money to-night! Don't think to put me off with that flam; but get me the money, or the money's worth, by eight o'clock to-night, for by G-I must have it! and you may expect to fee me then for it. So faying, he went off, and left me in a condition that if the earth had opened and swallowed me up, it would have rejoiced me. I knew it was impossible to get the money, or any thing like it-and indeed I never went about it; but I passed all the rest of the day in a state of stupid terror and distress that it is impossible to describe. At length eight o'clock came, and foon after I heard a knock at the door, which I knew to be Reilly's; and I went to open it with a heart

a heart beating against my breast, so that I could

hardly breathe.

When I let him in, and he faw the condition I was in, he burst out a-laughing-' What is the matter with you, man?' faid he, 'You look as if you faw a ghost!' I was not able to give him an answer. 'Is it because I asked you for the money,' faid he, 'that you are fo frighted?' Why yes,' faid I, in a faltering voice; 'I have it not, nor do I know where to get it; but if you leave me the clothes on my back, which are my master's, you may take every thing else I have in the world.' 'No, damn it!' faid Reilly, 'I'll not be fo hard-hearted as that neither; you are an honest fellow, and I love you as my friend; and as for the money, you will pay me when you can. I have got a supply for the present, I did not expect; and I came to tell you the good news, and to ask you to come to my lodging and to drink a bowl of punch with me, where, if you are an honest cock, and my friend, I'll shew you how to make us both happy all our days. It is not possible for words to express what I felt at this speech. The suddenness of the relief, the surprise and joy that slowed in upon me, was more than I was able to bear; and I should have fallen to the floor, if Reilly had not caught me in his arms. As I hung upon his neck in a transport of joy and gratitude, I told him I would ferve him with my life, and go with him to the end of the earth.

"Oh, fatal folly! Oh, dreadful and irremediable guilt! It is not yet a week fince I flept in innocence and peace!—a little week fince my hands were pure, and my character unstained! Alas! my mother! my aged, my helpless, my widowed mother! It is not yet a week fince you faw your child in freedom, in guiltless freedom,

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and gave him your bleffing. What will you do when you hear that in one hour he is become a robber and a murderer?—a difgraced and deferv-

ed outcast from all society!"

This affecting apostrophe brought tears into the eyes of the humane justice, and seemed to make some impression even on the stony hearts of those subaltern myrmidons of the law, by whom he was furrounded. The unhappy man himself seemed to be in an agony not to be deferibed; and Ned stood with his hands folded together, contemplating him with a filent and for-

rowful eye.

The justice first broke silence.—" Your guilt and your misfortunes," faid he, "unhappy man, are great; but if I can judge of others by myfelf, they will not be thought unworthy of compassion. It is your happiness that your career in wickedness has been cut short by an early detection; and if you have the grace to be forry for your sin, and to forsake it, you may be yet restored to some degree of comfort even in this life. In the mean time, it is your duty, as well as your interest, to proceed faithfully in your narrative, which is the best atonement you can make to your country, and which, as far as I have heard, feems candid and deferves credit."

The prisoner then continued his narrative:-" In an evil hour I confented to go with him: he foon got a good supper, with plenty of spirits and wine, and plied me with both till he had got me well warmed for any business he had to propose. At length he ventured to break the affair; he told me his father and mother lived in Ireland, where they had a good farm; and that he had a fifter who was a great beauty; that my mafter was a great rogue, and was worth a deal of money, which he made by wronging

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other people; that he knew very well where he kept a large fum; and that if I would only keep out of the way, and give him the key of the iron box in which the plate was kept, and of which he knew I had the charge, he would contrive to carry off the whole; and that it could never appear that I had any hand in it whatever; and that then he would carry me to Ireland, where I should marry his sister, and he would give me half of the spoils to set me up with.

" Had this been proposed to me in my sober fenses, I believe I should have had virtue enough to withstand it: even as it was, it both terrified and shocked me. I told him I could not think of joining to rob a man who had never done me wrong; and though I might be folucky as to escape the gallows, yet I could not conceal my wickedness from God, who would furely judge me for it in the next world, if not in this. He laughed at the idea of the next world, and faid he did not believe there was any fuch place; but if there is,' faid he, 'tis eafy enough to make peace there. God knows your master is a great rogue, fo do I; and perhaps he may put this into my head to be a means of punishing him, and then we are only his instruments;and besides, your master is a protestant and a heretic, and it is no fin to rob a heretic; and indeed I might be afraid myfelf, but I know, if there is any truth in religion at all, that the church has power to forgive fins-not your church, which is a heretic church—but the old and true church, the church of Rome; and I know that Father Dogherty, as good a priest as ever lived, will give me absolution for half-acrown; and he will do the same for you if you will be a good catholic, fo that you will not only make your fortune, but fave your foul too.' 66 I was e he keep

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"I was not fo drunk, nor yet fo ignorant, but that I could fee the weakness and the wickedness of this argument. Reilly perceived too that I was not satisfied: 'I'll tell you what', said he, 'to cut the matter short, I am determined to do the thing. I love you, therefore I offered you to give you share of the booty; and as an earnest of it, I forgive you what you owe me, and here are ten guineas more for you in your sist. But remember that you do as I desire you; for I have trusted you with my secret; and if you don't do as I bid you, by the living G— I will take care of you, and put you where you can tell no tales; and I shall get absolution for that too.'

"This last threat, which I fully understood, harrowed up my soul. I saw myself wholly in his power, and do not make the smallest doubt but that he would really have murdered me as he threatened, if I had any longer resused him: so with an aching and an unwilling heart I confented. He was too cunning to let me cool upon it; he detained me with him the whole night, and at length put me into his own bed in

a state of complete intoxication.

"In the morning he did not fail to make merenew my promife, as he did his threat in case I failed: and I went to my master, sick both in body and mind. The eldest of the maids saw I had been drinking, and chid me severely for staying out; and said she would tell my master if ever I did so any more. I promised I would not; but I said I was so sick I was afraid I was going to have a sever, and that I would go home to my mother, and if I was better, I would return the next day. They both endeavoured to dissuade me from this; but it being

my purpose to be out of the way, I persisted,

and went.

"I called on Reilly, gave him the key, and told him where to find me. I then went to my mother, and staid there all night.—How I passed that night I cannot describe, nor ever shall forget. Every time I looked at my mother, the consciousness of my guilt stung me to the soul. Her tender assiduities wrung me to the heart, when I thought of the sorrow and the shame I was preparing for her grey hairs! When the hour came in which I knew the mischief would be doing, my agony was inexpressible, and such as I can never again suffer, though I should be

executed for the crime.

" Early in the morning I called on Reilly, but he was not at his lodging. I then went home to my mafter's, where I found all in con-The two maids were at their wit's end -they told me all that had happened, and upbraided me with being out of the way; and the eldest did not scruple to say that she was sure the villain Reilly was the author of it; and that, as I was his companion of late, she did not doubt but I had gone out of the way on purpose, This last accufation, so just and so direct, shocked me like a stroke of lightning. I saw my folly to its full extent, and felt it to my foul. I curfed and fwore, indeed, and denied it; but my guilt was in my face, and might be difcerned by a less penetrating eye than hers. I knew indeed she could not prove it, but the fuspicion was too just not to set me on providing for my fafety.

"I foon after went to Reilly's again; and having informed him of what was faid, and my fears about it, he agreed with me that it was not fafe to remain, and that we should both set

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off that very day for Ireland. I did not hear as word of dividing the spoil; I don't know what he got; and I never received a shilling more. He went out, desiring me to remain where I was till he came back. In about an hour he returned, and told me he had two horses ready saddled and bridled, and desired me to go off with him directly. I had now no other choice lest; so off we went together, intending to go across the country, and by round-about ways, till we came to the Head; and there to embark for Ireland.

" Nothing remarkable happened to us till last Friday evening. The day was very bad, and we had stopped at Conway to refresh ourfelves and our horses. Looking out at the window, we saw a post-chaise stop, with two ladies. in it, and no fervants attending. We foon found they were going on for the Head, notwithstanding the stormy night; and their defenceless situation first put it into Reilly's head to rob them. I was absolutely at his disposal; he ordered me therefore to get ready, and that we should ride on before to meet them, as it were, when it was dark. He defired me to attack the women, and as I had no arms, he gave me a pen-case, which he said was just as good for them; and as for himself, who had a blunderbuss, he said he would take care of the postillions, that they should be no interruption. All that happened in confequence you know. 1 found myfelf knocked down, and I heard the that go off; but murder was no part of my plan. I got nothing. In the darkness and confusion I elcaped for that time; and recovering the horte, I returned to Conway in fearch of Reilly: but I have never feen nor heard of him fince; nor D 3

do I know whose the horses are, nor any thing about them.

"This, gentlemen, is my whole story, and I will seal it with my dying words. I am thankful that I have been early detected, and that I am rescued from the tyranny of Reilly, even by the gallows. But if his majesty should vouch-safe to extend mercy to me, the rest of my life shall be spent in prayers for him, and in endeavours to atone to my country for my great trans-

greffion."

The justice told him, he was glad to see that his misfortunes seemed to have made a proper impression on him: that it was necessary for him to be detained in custody, but that he should not want either for compassion or necessaries while he was there. He applauded the candour of his confession, and defired him to commit it to writing, and to sign it; and that he himself would take care it should redound to his advantage. He then returned to his own house, and Edward went with the doctor to his; from whence they soon after set forward together on horseback for Mr. Evans's.

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## CHAP. VII.

WW HEN they arrived at the gate, that worthy man went out to meet them with his accuftomed hospitality: he welcomed the doctor, but with a chastised pleasure, and so visible a discomposure of countenance as greatly alarmed both him and Ned. " Has any thing happened?" faid the doctor; "and how is my unfortunate patient?" "She is alive," faid Evans, "but, I tear, fast approaching to her dissolution." The doctor faid no more, but went up immediately to her chamber; whilst Ned, with an aching heart and trembling steps, followed his father into the parlour. " What," faid he, " my dear Sir (after fitting a little while,) " what new fymptom has arisen since I went away, that makes you despair of the poor lady's recovery?" "Alas, my child! faid he, " she is, I fear, past all recovery. God is going to take her to himself, and to reward her sufferings in a better world. I have feen her," continued he-" feen her lie all fenfeless and forlorn, wholly unconscious even of existence; she has been in this flate the whole day, and could not be roused to the smallest sensibility even for a moment. I am glad the doctor is come; for though I have no hope that his skill can avail any thing, yet it will be a consolation to have him in the house, and I do not mean to let him go till all is over." Ned's

Ned's eyes witneffed to his feelings by fome filent drops which trickled on his cheeks. He then gave his father a particular account of all that has been already related respecting the prifoner at Conway; which Mr. Evans heard with much satisfaction, particularly Collins's contrition, and trusting that it would be the means of bringing the arch-villain Reilly to condign punishment. "In all my time, said he, "I never knew nor heard of, murder escaping unpunished. God seems to have marked this dreadful erime for particular vengeance even in this life; and let it be perpetrated ever so cunningly or secretly, it always is discoloured. Should other means be wanting to find it out, there have been instances where the wretched perpetrators themfelves, unable to bear the stings of conscience, and the horrors of remorfe, have voluntarily furrendered themselves to justice; and fled to death itfelf, and a public execution, as a refuge from the terrors of their guilty minds. How gracious is God! and what a proof of his wisdom and mercy does it afford, when we confider that this anerring monitor is implanted in every break! that we cannot deviate in the smallest degree from our duty, without feeling its checks, and being fenfible of the divinity within as! While you live then, my dear boy, listen to this factor advice; it is the voice of God speaking to your foul, which, if you will obey, will always speak to you peace and comfort, and, in the end, conduct you to inestable happiness and glory."

Whilst Evans was thus moralizing with his son, Miss Watkin came down stairs to get something the doctor wanted. Neither of the gentlemen could muster up courage enough to ask about the unfortunate lady; but Ned, whose tenderness was extreme, and who could no lon-

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ger bear the suspense he was in, stole after her up stairs, and went with her into the room. He flood for a while motionless at the foot of the bed, filently contemplating its pale inhabitant. Her eyes were half open, but they faw. nothing; the paleness of death fat upon her countenance, which nevertheless was still beautiful; and a foft complacency was diffused over all her features, as if the was happy in the profpect of being foon in heaven. "Whoever thou art," faid he, " unfortunate young lady! earth never bred a fairer form, nor fent to heaven a more unpolluted foul than thine." He took one look at her, which he firmly believed to be the last; and, without faying a word to any person in the room, retired to his own chamber, to give vent to that forrow which was vilible in his eyes, and which a much lets feelmg heart than his could not suppress.

Here he remained fixed in meditation, till the maid came to fummon him to dinner. He would gladly have been excused going; but, thinking it would look particular, he went into the parlour, and partook of a chearless meal, at which little was faid and less was eaten. When the cloth was removed, and a glass or two of ale had gone round, Ned ventured to ask the doctor if it was possible for the lady to recover. He replied, that nothing was impossible to God; and that while there was life he would continue to do every thing in his power for her; but he confessed he had very little hopes, for, in all his practice, he had never feen any one in a more alarming fituation. Mr. Evans then requested the doctor would not leave the lady till all was determined one way or other. The doctor faid he would not; and that he would fit up with her himfelf this night, to watch the operation of

of blifters which he had put on feveral parts of

her body.

When night came, the doctor and the ladies retired to the fick apartment; and Mr. Evans and Ned continued fitting in the parlour. The anxiety of their minds had banished all thoughts of fleep; and though Mr. Evans preffed Ned to go to his bed, yet that amiable youth would not quit his father, but chose to fit up with him to endeavour to cheer him through the filence of the night, and to receive in his turn the confolation and instruction which he knew he should find in the conversation of his father on this folemn occasion. For several hours they sat without hearing the smallest stir; their conversation turned, as might be expected, on the fublime truths of Christianity, the nature of death, the immortality of the foul, and the feveral proofs of it that might be drawn from reason, exclusive of revelation. In this ferious and instructive manner did they pass the greatest part of the night, without any interruption: the clock ftruck four, and foon after they heard the room-door open, and the doctor's foot upon the stairs.

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All their apprehensions were now awakened; they longed, though they dreaded, to see him enter the parlour; and in this awful moment of suspence, a by-stander might have seen, that neither philosophy, nor even religion itself, could wholly subdue the feelings of nature. Notwithstanding their sublime conversation, and their thorough belief of the great gain that death is to the virtuous, they were struck with terror when the door opened, and were unable for a while even to speak. Et length Evans sound his tongue: "Is all over?" faid he. "I hope all is over," replied the doctor. "The lady lives—and I can pronounce her better. The blisters have risen;

and she has recovered sense—she has just asked for drink, and taken some wine whey, and I could not delay communicating to you these

happy tidings."

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The joy that now flowed in upon them, was equal to the despondence with which they were before oppressed. Ned's eyes, which were always the ready interpreters of his heart, bore witness to his satisfaction; whilst the venerable Evans, referring this bleffing to the Bestower of all bleffings, poured out his thankfgivings on his And, indeed, it was the constant custom of this truly pious and excellent man to betake himself to his Maker on every occasion of importance, whether of joy or forrow. He had a thorough faith, that all the events of this life were guided by an all-disposing Providence, though not absolutely predetermined so as to superfede the freedom of the will: but he believed that the Lord of nature, who at one view could comprehend the whole universe, and direct all the movements in it, did often, if not always, interpose his providence, although in doing so he made use of second and natural causes; and where men were studious to recommend themselves to him, and faithful enough fincerely to rely on him, he did further believe that all events were directed for their real interest; and though they might appear ever so untoward, yet in the end they would be conducive to lasting happiness. And indeed it would not be easy for the most acute philosopher to disprove this doctrine; for it must be allowed that the comfort and satisfaction which good men would derive from this belief, would diffuse over their whole lives such contentment and tranquillity as all the storms of adverfity could never destroy. And such indeed was the influence it had on the mind of Evans,

who, according to the common opinions of the world, might well be reckoned a man of forrows and acquainted with grief, but whose internal comforts arising from integrity of heart and purity of faith were fo great, that they were ever visible both in his countenance and temper; and it may well be doubted if there was really a man in the kingdom more truly happy than himfelf. Certain it is, he was completely fo at this moment: his fatisfaction arose from the purest fource, the most open and unbounded benevolence; and now being relieved from the great anxiety which depressed them in the beginning of the night, he and Ned retired for the remainder of it to rest, and the doctor returned to his attendance on the lady.

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## CHAP. VIII.

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HOPE my readers, if they have had patience to come to the beginning of this chapter, are by this time fomewhat interested in the story, and that they are longing to know who the unfortunate lady is, that I have endeavoured to recommend to their attention, and for whose recovery all that were about her feem fo much concerned. She is as yet unknown even at Mr. Evans's, and perhaps it may be her defire to continue for some time longer in obscurity; though certainly no young lady whatever has less reason to shun the public eye, as none could surpass her either in beauty or virtue. The only motive she can have for wishing to be some time longer concealed, arises from the very cause that would make a lady less delicate and confiderate ambitious of declaring herfelf, namely, her rank. But though this might be a reason to a mind like hers, to keep Evans in the dark, because the hated to give trouble, or to oppress her inferiors with the splendour of her title, yet it can be none with me to deny that fatisfaction to the reader; and I shall therefore take this opportunity, while the venerable curate and his family are afleep, and are therefore in no danger of overhearing us, to disclose the secret

Lady Cecilia Rivers was the only daughter of the Earl of Ravensdale, in Ireland, and had at this time nearly completed her eighteenth year.

To

To nature she was indebted for a form absolutely perfect, and for a mind every way suited to such a form. To her father she was obliged for a most finished education. His lordship was born a younger brother, and, having married early in life, was once blessed with a numerous family of children. He succeeded to the title on the death of his elder brother, about source years before

the commencement of this history.

The late lord had an only fon, who had the misfortune to displease his father by marrying contrary to his confent; on which account he never would fee him afterwards. He died, as his wife did also, about five years before his father, leaving a new-born fon, who was faid to have also died at nurse; and, on the demise of the late lord, Lady Cecilia's father succeeded of course. He had a clear landed estate of 16,000l. a year, which he enjoyed with dignity and œconomy, and was univerfally supposed to possess as much honour, humanity, and virtue, as any nobleman in the kingdom. He had the misfortune to lofe his lady foon after his accession to the title, when Lady Cecilia, who was his youngest child, was yet an infant; and of all his numerous family there now remained only her ladyship and two brothers. Her eldest brother, Lord Rivers, who was heir to the title and estate, was at this time about twenty-five years of age; and her second brother, about twenty-two, was a captain in the army.

The death of Lady Ravensdale, when her daughter Lady Cecilia was little more than four years of age, was a great blow to her lord, who tenderly loved her, and would have been severely selt by the children, had it not been for the tender and parental care of Mrs. Melville,

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This lady was a near relation of Lady Ravensdale, to whom she was extremely attached: she had been married to a gentleman of small fortune, but great accomplishments, and whilst they lived together, they were univerfally confidered to be one of the happiest as well as the most elegant pairs that ever love had united in matrimony. But alas! this happiness was of too short duration, and Mr. Melville, at an early period of his life, fell a facrifice to his affection for his wife. It happened that they were one night at the theatre, when, towards the end of the entertainment, there was an alarm in the house, of fire! In a short time the slames were feen bursting out among the scenes; and the dreadful confusion that enfued, by every body crowding to get out, was the occasion of many lives being loft which might otherwise have been faved. They happened to be in the stage box, and Mr. Melville, whose presence of mind never forfook him in danger, was well aware that it was impossible to escape by the ordinary pallages to the boxes; he took therefore the defperate resolution of jumping on the stage with his wife in his arms, and bore her through the flames to the back of the house, which he knew communicated with the manager's dwelling, and was fortunate enough to depolit her in a place of fafety without any material injury from the fire. But the terror, the heat, and the hurry of his spirits, together with being obliged to walk home in the night, neither his own nor any other carriage being to be got in the contulion, threw him into a fever, of which he died, to the inexpressible affliction of his disconfolate widow, who it was thought for a long

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time would not be able to furvive him. At length however she recovered, and possessed a jointure from her husband of 300l. a year, which as she had no child, was in Ireland a sufficient income for a single woman of fashion to live to-lerably comfortably on, especially as she had many friends to whose houses she was ever a most welcome guest.

Her summers she usually spent with Lord and Lady Ravensdale, at their seat in the country; but the winters she passed in Dublin, where she had a small but very neat house in one of the new streets in the neighbourhood of Merrion-

fquare.

Some time after Lady Ravensdale's death, she was prevailed upon by my Lord to supply her place to her infant children; and Lady Cecilia, the youngest, coming more particularly under her care, she transferred the affection she had for the mother to the daughter, and really selt for her a parental tenderness: under her forming hand she grew perfect in every polite attainment, whilst the excellence of her understanding, and the native sweetness of her disposition, gave additional lustre to the surpassing beauties of her person.

Lord Ravensdale had a sister, Lady Elizabeth Belmont, who was married to an English gentleman of large fortune, and who lived wholly in that kingdom. This lady had not seen her niece since she was a child; but hearing much of her beauty and accomplishments, she wished exceedingly for that pleasure, and to introduce her into the first circles, and to all the splendid amusements of the metropolis of the empire. She had therefore, in the autumn, written prefingly to Lord Ravensdale, and also to Lady Cecilia, inviting her to spend the winter with

her in London; and she wrote at the same time to Mrs. Melville, requesting her to accompany her. Lord Ravensdale could not refuse this request, so proper in itself, and which promised to be so agreeable to Lady Cecilia also. The two ladies therefore had accepted the invitation, and gone over in the month of September. Lord Rivers, Lady Cecilia's brother, had escorted them all the way, and delivered them safe to Lady Elizabeth Belmont, at her house in Berkeley-square; but his attendance in the Irish parliament (where he was a commoner) being necessary, he was obliged to re-

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Lady Cecilia and Mrs. Melville were received by Mr. Belmont and Lady Elizabeth with all the affection and politeness they could desire; and perhaps if Lady Cocilia had had less beauty, or her aunt had lived in a less splendid circle of gaiety and fashion, they might have passed a very agreeable winter, and the amiable Mrs. Melville been still living. But Providence, who from causes the most common, and seemingly the most trivial, often deduces the most important consequences, thought fit to determine otherwise. For some time, indeed, the novelty of the scenes amused; and Lady Cecilia, who was the very foul of elegance, could not fail to find in London whatever could delight her fancy, or improve her tafte. Had she been in her own house, or her amusements left to her own choice, this would undoubtedly have been the cafe; but in her aunt's house she was under the necessity of conforming to her mode of living, and of choosing her amusements and her company by her direction, which, as their education and fentiments were widely different, were not always entirely such as Lady Cecilia Charles and the state of the second

approved. She could not all at once divest herfelf of her love of tranquillity, and of those calm and foothing pleasures which an elegant and refined mind feeks within itself, and enjoys most when it is alone, or in the company of a few and felect friends. The eternal round of diffipation, however fashionable, and the perpetual return of the fame amusements, however fplendid, though they pleased at first, soon lost their charm, and at length grew fatiguing:like the infipid amusement of Renelagh, where all are aftonished at the splendour and magnitude of the room on their first entrance; but after passing a few hours, they find it little better than an enormous cock-pit, and are as much amused with the dull round of the circle as a horse in a mill. Even the theatres, where she might reasonably hope for entertainment, miserably deceived her; not indeed from any fault in them or the managers, but folely from the fashion; for the foon found that fine ladies go to the theatres not to fee, but to be feen; that the fideboxes, where they are condemned to fit, though favourable for the exhibition of themselves, is not fo for feeing the play; that the company talk as much there as at any other affembly, and, except in a few instances, return home as ignorant of the entertainment as those who had never been at it.

After a few weeks therefore of fashionable diffipation, her curiofity was fatisfied; the pleasures of London ceased to be agreeable when they were no longer new. She was not formed for the thoughtless hurry of what is called high-life: she was bred in retirement notwithstanding her rank, and she longed to return to the elegant but tranquil amusements which used to employ her at her father's house.

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But it was not the being fatiated with London alone, which induced her so earnestly to long for the time of her return: she dreaded the addresses of a young nobleman, to whom her aunt had introduced her, and whose praises she was perpetually sounding in her ears; yet in whom she could never see any thing to admire, but, on the contrary, had conceived a contempt for his person, his manners, and his sentiments.

As this nobleman was become a constant party in all Lady Elizabeth's entertainments, and as all his attentions which he did not bestow on himself were directed to Lady Cecilia, she found herfelf under the most disagreeable restraint; while her respect for her aunt, and for the rank of her guest, obliged her to endure the fociety of a man whom she despised, and even to feign complacence in his company, that she might not discover her contempt. Her mind was of that generous openness, and her sense of honour and truth fo delicate, that she could not bear any thing like diffimulation, even where the intent was praise-worthy; and her fituation would probably in a fhort time have become very difagreeable, had not a fit of a gout in the stomach, with which her father was attacked, furnished her with an excuse for quitting London long before the time she had originally intended. Her aunt pressed her to stay, and would have perfuaded her that the fit would go off in a few days, as it had often done before: the was really forry to part with her fo foon, for she was justly proud of the sense, the beauty, and the virtues of her niece; but Lady Cecilia would not hear of any delay, the reasons already mentioned co-operating with her filial affection to make her long to throw herfelf into the bofom of her father.

It was in pursuance of this intention that she left London, after taking an affectionate leave of Mr. Belmont and Lady Elizabeth; and Mrs. Melville returning with her, they pursued their journey without any molestation, till that unhappy evening when that amiable woman lost her life, and the tender and affectionate Lady Cecilia, overwhelmed with grief and confternation, was conducted, by Ned's courage and activity, to the poor but friendly mansion of his father.

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## CHAP. IX.

IN the morning the family affembled together to breakfast; and a visible joy was expressed in every countenance, when the doctor affured them that his patient was out of danger. As their anxiety for her life was now over, their next curiofity was to discover who she was. Various were their conjectures on this head; some of them wide, and some not very remote from the truth: they all however agreed that, let her be who she would, she was an angel both in form and disposition; and Evans, whose joy for her recovery knew no bounds, thanked Heaven for the accident that brought her to his house, and made him any ways instrumental to her comfort and fatisfaction. The doctor told them that nothing would be now necessary for her, but nourishing food and exercise; that her mind must be made as cheerful as possible; and for this reafon, all enquiries about her family or fituation, or any thing that could agitate her spirits, must be wholly let alone. "It is perfectly immaterial who she is," faid he; " she is in distress, and moreover she is certainly a gentlewoman, and in every respect entitled to all that can be done for her. I would, therefore, ask her no queftions, but leave it to herfelf to disclose her situation or not as she thinks proper." Mr. Evans entirely agreed with the doctor in all these sentiments; and the women were obliged to ac-VOL. I. quielce,

quiesce, though it must be owned their curiosity was not a bit abated.

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After breakfast the doctor took his leave, as his attendance was no longer necessary; but he promifed to come frequently to fee her, and to be ready at a moment if he should be wanted. Ned faddled his horse, and rode a part of the way with him; and the worthy Evans betook himself to his garden, which he had not visited before fince this difastrous event took place. A garden, to an elegant and philosophical mind, is one of the greatest amusements in the world; every beneficent and amiable passion is gratified in it; and it also answers the noblest moral purpose, when it lifts up the heart in gratitude and admiration to that great and benevolent Being, who there so profulely gratifies the fenses of his creatures. Our Saviour himself suggests this to us, when he desires us to consider the lilies of the field; which, though they neither toil nor fpin, yet furpass Solomon himself in the beauty of their raiment. Mr. Evans was extremely fensible of this beauty, and had from his earliest years addicted himself to the study of Nature, and to the pleasing and rational amusement of cultivating and adorning her wherever he had opportunity. Next to the improvement of the mind, he thought nothing more becoming than that of his garden, which he confidered as the primitive employment of mankind, prescribed to our first parents by God himself, and therefore every way fuitable to our nature, and to pure unadulterated tafte. His skill in the science was confummate; not only in the theory but practice, for he wrought in it himself, which he confidered as a wholefome and pleafant exercise, in which his son often joined him when not employed in more important concerns.

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The spot which he now possessed was beautifully fituated for the purpose: it contained only about three acres, but was fo agreeably diversified by the inequality of the ground, and by the winding walks which he had formed through it, as to appear of much greater extent; and you might walk miles in it without being tired, and even without being conscious that you were treading the fame ground. All the flowers which our climates produce to perfection were here profusely scattered, and in such a manner as to appear the work of Nature, though in fact they were attended with the nicest care, and disposed by the most artful management, so as to contrast their colours, and set off their beauties to the best advantage. There were no walls to this garden; for Mr. Evans did not go to the unnecessary expence of raising foreign fruits: he was contented with those which could bear the climate, without artificial heat; and he had abundance of these of all kinds, and in the greatest perfection. His garden was nevertheless well fenced; for it had high and close hedges, where holly formed a verdant and impenetrable wall, and where fweet brier and woodbine spread their delicious odours all around. His esculent herbs, fuch as cabbages and the like, which, though of most use, are the least ornamental, he disposed in such a manner as not to be seen unless purposely visited: they were concealed in large and irregular plots, furrounded by flowering shrubs, and various kinds of fruit-trees, both standards and espaliers, among which the walks were formed; which were perpetually covered with a short and verdant grass, kept closely mowed and rolled, where not a weed was to be feen. A large wood of forest trees E 2

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fheltered it from the rigours of the north and eaftern wind; and from among these trees issued the river we have already spoken of, which murmured through the bottom of the garden, the banks of which Mr. Evans had every where adorned with violets, cowflips, primrofes, and lilies of the valley, which thriving under the shade of some weeping willows, that he had also planted there, formed a delicious and elegant feat, not to be equalled by the most pompous and elaborate work of the most skilful architect. To this place he now came; and though it was a feafon in the year the least favourable to rural pleafures, yet the fineness of the day conspiring with the tranquillity of his mind, and with the recent joy which the recovery of his fair lodget had created, he fell into a train of tapturous fensations, which at length broke forth into the following foliloquy:

"How happy are these shades! How beautiful is Nature! 'Tis now the depth of winter; yet the luxuriant verdure of you laurestinus, the rich crimfon of the fruit of you arbutus glowing through the deep green of its furrounding leaves, feems to take from fummer the proud boast of vegetation, since it cannot produce any thing more beautiful. Hark! the sweet note of you robin redbreatt-he fits upon that naked current bush, and warbles his fong from amids its leaslets branches. Do vou remember, little rogue, how oven you regaled upon its fruit Do you expect to find the like entertainment now? Or rather, do you come, in the genero fity of your little heart, to visit it in its diffress and, thankful for the delicious meals it has at forded you, to cheer it with your fong, and com fort it for its departed verdure? Yes! [wee warbler, you follow the voice of Nature, an

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raife your tuneful fong in gratitude to him that feeds you. Shall man then be filent? Shall he to whom most is given be the last to acknowledge?-O! thou fovereign and almighty Goodness, whose care is over all thy works: Thou who kindlest the sun, and directest the planets in their orbs; who findest food for the young ravens, and protecteft the embryo of a worm: Thou who art above all things, and before all things, who nevertheless carest and providest for the meanness of thy creatures: Oh! grant me a heart to feel and to adore thy goodness, who hast made me what I am, and so much happier than I deserve to be !-Oh | give me gratitude to acknowledge thy spontaneous mercy, and let it produce in me a like feeling to my fellow creatures, that, humbly imitating thy great example, I may impart to them some of that good which thou hast so liberally bestowed on me!"

Such was the train of thinking which the fight of a robin redbreast on a currant bush excited in the mind of the humble and the virtuous Evans: and where a mind is formed like his to virtue, and trained up in the exercise of piety and devotion, there is scarce an object in nature that is not productive of improvement, no fenfation of pleasure that does not at the same time abound with virtue. O happy and enviable feeling | O exalted and fublime sentiment | This is true religion, equally removed from enthuliaim and superstition—this is that small still voice which follows us into our inmost retirement, which speaks in secret to our soul—the gentle key by which the affections of all virtuous hearts are tuned, and which affords them on earth no mean refemblance of the eternal harmony of Acaven a policy has a realized to the fire element

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In this train of foothing and facred meditation did Mr. Evans remain until Ned returned from his ride. As foon as he had put his horse in the stable, and fet a good lock of hay before him, which he never neglected, he went into the garden to his father, in order to affilt him with any work in which he might happen to be engaged—a pious duty, which was always agreeable to Ned, who loved him at once with all the affection of a child, and all the manly warmth of a friend. He revered him for his virtues, loved him for the sweetness of his temper, admired him even in his weaknesses, and felt for him every thing that the most dutiful affection or the most impassioned friendship could suggest. Evans again felt all these sentiments for Ned, with four-fold force; fo that perhaps in the whole circuit of nature there was not another father and another fon fo linked together by every tie of reciprocal duty and affection. The fight of Ned soon roused Mr. Evans from his meditations, and they both went feriously to work for some hours, in correcting all that had gone amifs fince they had last wrought together, and in doing fuch other bufiness as the feason of the year allowed. Let not my readers think this detail uninteresting, or smile with contempt on the humble labours of Evans and his fon. If they can inspire one breast with a taste for those pure pleasures, if they can induce one pair of idle hands to occupy themselves in the same innocent and delightful employment, these pages have not been written in vain. 41 444391 11

The hour of dinner gave respite to their labour, and their labour gave them an appetite, a fauce more luxurious than is to be found in the whole fystem of cookery, and which indeed it is not in the power of any thing but labour to

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bestow. Their meal to-day was particularly enditalivened by the presence of Mrs. Evans and Miss rned Watkin, who indulged their native gaiety and orfe good humour without restraint, since the happy, efore change in their fair patient's complaint; and into Lady Cecilia herfelf had fat up the greatest part him of the day, and had fo far indulged their curio be ofity as to tell them her name was Cecilia Rireevers, and that she was the only daughter of a the gentleman of diffinction in Ireland: but the did mth not tell them that her father was an earl, thinktues, ing the splendour of a title would embarrass adthem; and besides, while she remained in t for Wales, she wished to be entirely at ease, withtion out being known or visited only by the good fagest. mily she was in, and their particular friends. Ved, Every thing indeed conspired to make retirethe ment at this time as pleafing to her as it was nether cessary; and she only waited the return of a litr by tle strength, to pursue her journey to Ireland, The where her heart and her affections were now his wholly centred. This was the first time that she y to had ever been out of it; and it had so happened had that she had hardly ever passed a truly pleasant day fince the left it. The dreadful event which. her, n of deprived her of her dearest semale friend comthis pletely difgusted her with travelling, and she longed with impatience for the time that was to t on If restore her to her country, her friends, and the hose endearing embraces of her father. Her impair of tience, however, did not get the better of her inwildom; the knew the was in no condition to. travel, and she determined to wait the restoraages . tion of her health, before she would attempt it: lafor the rest, she was perfectly satisfied with her e ; a present situation; she was pleased with the atthe tention of Mrs. Evans and Mils Watkin, and

was fully sensible that, since the fatal accident.

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did happen, the could no where have been placed more to her satisfaction. Mrs. Evans and Miss Watkin, on the other hand, thought and fpoke of her as if the was more than human. Her elegance, her youth, her beauty, her distresses, and above all her piety and refignation, had raifed in them fentiments of the highest admiration; and as no object is more interesting than beauty in diffress, especially where that beauty is heightened by virtue, it is no wonder if the amiable Mrs. Evans grew enamoured with Lady Cecilia, and if, next to her husband and Ned, the loved her better than any thing elfe in the world. This really was very foon the case; and if Lady Cecilia's affections had not been for deeply and fo recently wounded, by the loss of Mrs. Melville (a loss which she will never cease to deplore but with her life), it is highly probable she would have felt an equal attachment to Mrs. Evans. As it was, the felt all that gratitude could inspire; which is everything in a heart susceptible like hers, formed both by nature and education to be the dwelling of every noble and exalted virtue. Being thus, therefore, equally fatisfied with each other, Mrs. Evans did every thing in her power to contribute to the ease and amusement of Lady Cecilia; and her ladyship, supported by religion, submitted to a calamity which could not be cured, and, daily fecovering health and strength, with them recovered her usual cheerfulness and serenity of mind. - 12 Com to the state of the st

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## CHAP. X.

AN the neighbouring village, not far from Mr. Evans's house, there dwelt a poor man whose name was John Price: in his youthful days he addicted himself to poetry and music, talents not uncommon in Wales; but finding, like other poets, that the Muses seldom could maintain their votaries, he listened to the noble trumpet of ambition, and enlifted in a marching regiment, in the twentieth year of his age. He served his country with courage and fidelity for several years, though he found Mars a severe master, and almost as bad a patron as Apollo. At last having received a wound in the head at the unfortunate battle of Fontenoy, which ended in a defluxion, by which he loft his fight; he was discharged the service, and returned to his native foil, to tubiff on a small pension which the bounty of his country allowed him.

Here he returned to his first mistresses the Muses, and composed ballads on his achievements and misfortunes, which he set to the ancient music of his country, and sung, accompanied with the harp, on which he played with tolerable skill. The charms of his music and of his pension got him a wise, and they between them got a daughter, who was now a rosy, buxon girl, with hazel eyes, and anbarne hair, whose curling tresses used to ensure the hearts of all the young fellows who came to listen to

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her father's music and enjoy a pot of ale; for the good housewisery of the wise brewed excellent ale, which, accompanied with their music, they retailed in the village, and, to say the truth, it was an entertainment not altogether inelegant. Even Ned himself was charmed; and though he never descended to sit with the company that usually resorted there, yet he loved the old man, and used to go at times, when he knew the country people were otherwise engaged, to hear his tales, and his songs, and to play himself upon the harp—on which he soon made such a proficiency as to touch it with far more delicacy and taste than Price himfels.

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One evening when lady Cecilia had recovered for far as to partake of the family meals below. Rairs, after the tea-things had been taken away, and the company were chatting about the fire, Mis Watkin asked her ladyship, if she was fond of mufic? "I love it passionately," rephed Lady Cecilia, " and think mufic well performed the most rapturous entertainment upon earth." "It is indeed," faid Mr. Evans, " the most affecting of all entertainments; but it is only rapturous when employed in its first and noblest destination, the praises of the great Creator." "Your observation is just," replied Lady Cecilia, " and I will not contend for the propriety of my expression; though I confess I have felt such pleasure at some concerts, as I have no idea of being transcended by any thing on this fide of heaven :- but, to be fure, mufic, when employed in religious worship, receives it grand addition of fublimity, nor can the feeble praifes of man be offered up in any way more fuitable to the inconceivable dignity of the great Being to whom they are addressed." " I fally agree

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agree with you in this fentiment," faid Mr. Evans; "and I cannot but regret that custom has banished from our churches all instruments except the organ; which, though I allow it to be the grandest of all instruments, and the best fuited to religious worship, is yet not the only one that might be so employed; and is besides. of fuch cumbrous and expensive structure, as cannot be attained by any churches except cathedrals, or such as have very large revenues annexed to them." "It is a pity, indeed," faid Lady Cecilia, "that organs large enough for a church are so very expensive; but I know of no instrument that could supply its place. The harpfichord is too feeble; and though I greatly admire a violin in a room, yet I could not endure to fee a fiddler's elbow shaking in an anthem, or a trumpeter puffing out his cheeks in the solemn praises of the Deity." Evans smiled-" I confess," said he, " these objects would be rather ludicrous; but what think you of the harp? This is a folemn instrument, and not liable to those objections." "It is an instrument I am not very well acquainted with," faid Lady Cecilia: "I have fometimes heard it played upon in Ireland," faid she, "commonly by some blind woman; but either from its own defects, or the want of skill in the performer, I did not think it much preferable to a dulcimer." "You have never heard the Welch harp, then?" faid Mr. Evans. She replied that the had not.—
"Would you like to hear it?" faid he. "Exin the house?" " No, madam," said Mr. Evans, " but there is a poor old fellow in the neighbourhood, who was a foldier, and who loft his fight in the service of his country, but liked of an Jones, and

who, having some knowledge of playing on the harp, now follows it as a profession; and if you have a mind to hear it, I will send for him, and order him to bring his harp with him." Lady Cecilia said, "By all means; it would give me a great deal of pleasure." So the maid was im-

mediately dispatched for honest John.

The poor fellow was however unable to come: he had got a fall two days before, by trufting too much to his knowledge of the way, and walking without his dog, who commonly was a faithful guide; and he was now lying in bed, unable to get out of it, from the bruile he had received .- These tidings were a great difappointment to the whole company, and Lady Cecilia could not conceal that the was affected both by the loss of the entertainment, and much more by the accident which occasioned it. Ned perceived her emotion-" I am forty," faid he, for poor John's mischance; he is an honest and a good-natured old man; and deferved a happier lot in life than has fallen to his share; however, that Miss Cecilia (as he called her) may not be wholly disappointed, I will go and fetch the harp myfelf, and endeavour to strum upon it a little for her entertainment." Lady Cecilia now recovered her spirits, and faid, he was always doing obliging things; but begged, if it was far to fetch, or troublesome to earry, that he would not undertake it, as the could wait with patience till another time. Ned faid it was neither far to ferch nor troublesome to carry, at least he should think nothing troublesome that could contribute to her entertainment; and he immediately went for it.

When he left the room, Lady Cecilia obferved to Mrs. Evans, that her fon had the most natural politeness of any young man she ever

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faw. "My obligations to him are great," faid the; "great indeed, never to be forgotten!— (here a tear trembled in her eye)—yet he is always contriving to add to them by those little attentions which are the test of good manners, and which receive additional grace by the way in which he performs them." Mrs. Evans replied, "You are very good, madam, to think so favourably of my son: he is indeed an excellent lad, with a kind and a tender heart; but you over-rate the services he has done to you, which are only those of duty, and which I know he thinks the happiest incident of his life."

Miss Watkin bore her testimony to the amiableness of Ned's manners and disposition; and assured Lady Cecilia, she would have no loss of the harper, for that Mr. Edward played upon that instrument with far greater delicacy of taste

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Ned foon after returned with the harp upon his back; which when Lady Cecilia faw, the was confounded indeed at giving him to much trouble; for the had no idea of its fize from the harps she had seen in Ireland. This was one of the best of its kind, and so tall, that when Ned had reared it, and placed it in its proper polition, the top of it almost touched the cieling of the room. The Welch harps, besides the great difference in their fize, are all firung with cat-gut, which gives them a vait advantage over those of Ireland, which are not only diminutive in comparison, but have fewer thrings, and those of wire, which never have the foftness nor expression of the cat-gut strings. Ned now called forth all its harmony—his fingers flew over the chords with rapid velocity, yet touched them with fuch lightness that the found at first feemed like the breath of some solemn and melodious voices wasted by the air from a remote distance; then, swelling by degrees, appeared to approach nearer, till, rising to its highest pitch, it warbled for some minutes, like the sweet notes of the sky-lark singing at the gates of heaven; then all at once descended in a full stream of the richest melody, that overpowered the soul, and drowned the senses in a rapturous elysium.

Lady Cecilia listened to it with assonishment her breath seemed to keep pace with the notes' through all their variations; and when he came to the close, she was almost exhausted, and, like Strada's nightingale, had well nigh expired on

the strings.

She was infinitely delighted with the entertainment, and confessed she had never heard any stringed instrument like it, and for sweetness of expression she thought it superior even to the organ itself. Evans said he was happy that she was pleased, and that she gave her sanction to

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his judgment.

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"This," faid he, "madam, is our national music, and perhaps I am partial to it on that account: I love it for another reason, and even hold it as something sacred; for this is the instrument in which we are told that holy David delighted, and for whose music he composed those sacred and divine hymns whose beauty and sublimity excel all the poems in the world. He then made Ned play several anthems, and accompanied them with his voice; in which he himself joined with considerable grace and propriety.

When all was finished, he asked Lady Cecilia, if she did not think that instrument might be admitted into a church? "Yes, Mr. Evans," said she, "I think it might be admitted into

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heaven; and if any thing on earth can without profaneness be compared to heaven, it is such an entertainment as you have this night given me.— A family linked in the closest bonds of unity and affection, dealing benevolence on all around them, and hymning the praises of their Creator to the most melodious of all instruments—I can conceive nothing on earth to exceed this, and it has made an impression on my heart that I think I shall be the better for all the days of my life."

She then expressed a desire to try if she could make out a tune upon it. She was a perfect mittress of the harpsichord and the guitar; but never having touched a harp before, the could not be expected to do much on it at first. Ned Evans, however, shewed her the manner of touching the strings, and, leaning over her chair, affifted her in holding the harp. She very quickly accomplished several tunes, and accompanied one or two of them with her voice. Mifs Watkin whispered to Mrs. Evans, that Miss Cecilia put her in mind of a beautiful print she had once feen, where her celebrated namefake, St. Cecilia, the patroness of music, was reprefented playing on a harp; and that Mr. Edward looked like the angel that had come down from heaven to liften to her. This observation was made in the purity and innocence of her heart; but the elegance and aptness of the allusion furprised Mrs. Evans, knowing that Miss Watkin, though perfectly amiable in her disposition, was, from her confined education, rather vulgar in her conceptions.

From that moment however she suspected that Ned had made an impression on her heart; and as it would certainly be an advantageous alliance for him, she was not at all displeased at it. Morgan was now called, to carry the harp back to Lady Cecilia followed, and, slipping a guinea into his hand, defired him to give it to the poor man, and to bid him bring his harp again as foon as he was able to come with it: and the charged him not to fay a word to any body else about the money. He promised faithfully to obey her: nevertheless, in two hours, it was known to the whole house. Though this action could not raise Lady Cecilia in the esteem of the Evans's, where she already held the highest place, yet it served to confirm them in a just opinion of the goodness of her heart, and also in that of her being a lady of distinction.

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## CHAP. XI.

MISS Watkin's attendance not being now necessary, she returned home to her father, who indeed could not do very conveniently without her, and who (confidering his temper) had fubmitted with wonderful patience and good humour to want her fo long. She left Lady Cecilia with infinite regret; and though it was but a small distance from Mr. Evans's to her father's, yet she shed as many tears at parting as if they never were to meet again: but Lady Cecilia, who had a fincere regard for her, and thought herself much indebted to her for her attendance, made her promise to come as often as she could, while she should still be obliged to remain in the country. Air and exercise being recommended to her as effential to her recovery, she borrowed a little pony from Miss Watkin, which had been well broke for her riding; and Ned Evans had the supreme felicity of attending her, sometimes on foot, and fometimes on his father's horse, in all her little excursions. He fed and dressed the little pony himself, cleaned the filver bit, and took care that all about him should be completely neat, for the charming burthen he was to carry. He did not neglect his own dress, nor the appearance of the horse which he was to ride; being folicitous, in every thing, to appear attentive to the amiable and elegant Cecilia. Many.

Many were the delightful rides they took in that beautiful and romantic country, whole Iweetest scenes were studiously selected by Ned to conduct his fair companion to; and their conversation may be supposed to be such as would naturally flow from two virtuous and well-informed minds folicitous to please each other, whose tastes and whose opinions were very nearly alike, although their rank and their education had been fo widely different. And indeed fo fuccessful had Ned been in finding amusements for Lady Cecilia, that time flipped imperceptibly away; and near three weeks had now elapsed before her ladyship discovered that the was reftored to the full poffession of of beauty, health, and strength. Her glass would never have made this discovery; for though she looked in it every day, yet she did not know that she was handsome: but some accidental question about Ireland, one day after dinner, brought it fully to her mind; and her father, her friends, and her country, rushing at once upon her recollection, took full possession of her foul, and absorbed all other desires. She that very evening fet about preparing for her journey, and her first care was to send a card to Dr. Jones, requesting his company the next day, and defiring him to bring his bill along with him.

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The greatest part of the evening she spent in her own apartment, adjusting her own trunks, and that of her dear departed friend Mrs. Melville. The sight of her clothes, and the ornaments she used to wear, and other little circumstances that could not fail to occur, brought the memory of that excellent woman fresh to her mind; she spent hours in the tender and affecting contemplation of the various articles that had once been hers: and when Mrs. Evans came up

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to fummon her to supper, she was under the necessity of entreating to be excused, and to be allowed to dedicate that night to tears, and to the beloved memory of her unfortunate friend.

At length the fources of her forrow dried; she retired to rest, when a sweet sumber refreshed her wearied spirits, till the morning rose with healing on its wings; and she repaired to breakfast, in all the power of renovated health and Never did she appear so lovely in the beauty. eyes of the Evans's, as at this instant. Whether it was that her returned health, and the complacency of her mind in the agreeable hope of speedily being restored to her friends, did really kindle in her countenance a more than ordinary glow of beauty; or whether, rather, the knowledge how foon they were to lofe her, did not awaken in the hearts of the Evans's a more lively and impassioned tenderness: certain it is they were all of them more affected with her appearance this morning than ever they had been before; and Ned, in particular, could hardly take his eyes off her, except to conceal a rifing moifture, which in spite of all his efforts would fometimes become visible. He was pleased however to hear her propose taking a last ride with him, the day being remarkably fine, and he hastened with his usual alacrity to faddle his own horse and her little pony: neither had he been forgetful of himself on this occasion; for, thinking it might be the last time he should have the happiness to accompany her, and intending to propose a ride, if Lady Cecilia had not herfelf prevented him, he had taken more than ordinary care that morning of his drefs, folicitous (perhaps without knowing it) to appear particularly amiable to her. He had on a pea-green frock, quite new, with filver buttons,

a cafimir waistcoat with a fancied pattern of filk embroidery round the button-holes, new doeskin breeches, and boots; his hat, which was also new, was adorned with a filver loop and band; his hair, which was always beautiful, was this day uncommonly gloffy, and disposed in luxuriant curls round his neck; and his wholefigure, animated with health, vigour, and activity, was certainly well calculated to make an impression on a semale heart.

Lady Cecilia complimented him on the elegance of his dress, which she had not seen before: and he assured her he had made it up wholly with the view of being a more suitable attendant upon her in the excussions which he had the happiness to take with her. Lady Cecilia wore the same elegant travelling habit, in which she had first made her appearance on the unfortunate night of her arrival; and, thus

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equipped, they rode out together.

They visited in their tour all the places to which they had been accustomed to go in their former jaunts, her ladyship having a defire to fee them for the last time; when turning her horse to go home, Ned told her he had one sequestered scene yet to shew her, which he had purposely reserved for the last, because he himfelf thought it the most beautiful, and that, as he was in the cultom of often vifiting it, he wished it to be endeared to him by her presence and approbation. Lady Cecilia made no objection, and they proceeded, by a narrow road with high hedges, till they came to a valley between two mountains. This valley was not above one hundred yards wide; and the mountains, which role to a prodigious height on each fide, feemed to correspond so in their windings and appearance, as to make it probable that they once were ilk

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once were were united, but torn afunder by some very remote and violent convulsion of nature. fides were clothed almost to the top with thick forests, among which there were so many hollies and other evergreens as gave them a rich verdure even in the depth of winter: here and there a naked rock, loftier than the tallest steeple, stood like a giant baring his breast to the tempest, and bidding defiance both to time and weather. Through the midst of the vale a clear stream ran murmuring over a bed of white pebbles, and brawled among the fragments of rocks, which the revolution of ages had feparated from the lofty fummits of the furrounding mountains. The bank, on either fide was covered with a thort thick mois, and a profusion of mountain flowers and alpine plants, which were at once grateful to the eye and easy to the Through this vale they rode by a gently-winding path, till they were stopped by a stupendous cavern, out of which the brook iffued, and which was hollowed by nature in an enormous rock, that stretched quite across the valley and united the mountains on either fide. Lady Cecilia was prodigiously struck with the beauty and grandeur of the scene, and stood for a long time contemplating the awful entrance of the cavern with a mixture of terror and delight. Ned asked her to go into it; but she seemed more than half afraid, intimidated by its frowning horror, and the darkness in which it seemed involved: but Ned affured her there was no kind of danger, and if she could get the better of her apprehension, she would find her curiofity fully train in the market

Encouraged by his persuasion, and relying on his protection, she consented to go in; so, atighting from their horses, Ned saltened them

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to the stump of an old tree, and led the lovely Cecilia to the mouth of the cavern. The entrance was overgrown with ivy and various kinds of shrubs and bushes, which enriched the nakedness of the rocks, and contracted the mouth of the opening: within, it rose to a vast height, like the aile of a Gothic cathedral, and was adorned with an infinite variety of beautiful petrisactions, which hung like icicles from the roof, and round all the sides assumed a thousand curious and fantastic forms, in which a lively imagination could discover a never ending variety of resemblances to natural objects.

They walked through this wonderful cavern near a hundred yards, when they came to a large hole in the fide of the rock, out of which came pouring the stream purer than crystal itself, which watered the valley, and which slowed

with an unceafing and unvarying fpring.

The terror with which Lady Cecilia entered the cave was now distipated, for she found it infinitely lighter within than it appeared to be without; and taking advantage of a mostly bank which was near, she sat down to contemplate at leisure the wonderful beauties that surrounded her

Ned fat down beside her, and, removing a little stone which was at his back, he produced some oranges and dried fruits, which he had besore provided for such an occasion as this, and agreeably surprised Lady Cecilia with this elegant refreshment. Out of a deep scollop shell, which he had also brought on purpose, he presented her some water, scooped up from the pure and transparent element that issued from the rock; which when she had drunk, and expressed her satisfaction in its delicious and refreshing coolness—"See," said he, "how easily nature

is fatisfied! and how bountifully even luxurioully she provides for all who have purity of taste sufficient to relish her simple blessings!"

"Truly, Mr. Evans," faid Lady Cecilia, " I fee it and acknowledge it. This cavern, of Nature's making, surpasses in magnificence the most splendid apartment that wealth and grandeur ever erected; nor can the most laboured cookery produce any flavour so grateful as your fruits, or the most costly wines be fo refreshing to a thirsty palate as the living stream

which pours from this rock."

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"'Twas thus," faid Evans, " that mankind was intended to fare, by his great Creator, in the days of primeval innocence; when Eve fpread her fruits in the bower, and Adam and the angel shared them with her. Yet," faid he, " were this rock mine, and did the lovely Cecilia confent to share them with me, I should not envy Eve her fruits, nor Adam his paradife, though honoured with the company of angels."

The aftenished Cecilia made no reply; a deep blush suffused her radiant countenance, and a univerfal tremour agitated her whole frame. She cast a look at Ned, in which he thought he law feverity mingled with sweetness; and rising to quit the cave, he hastened to atone for his prefumption, and threw himself at her feet. "Oh! flay," he said; "divine Cecilia, flay! and do not quit me in displeasure: Oh! pardon an unguarded word, which, though the genuine fentiment of my heart, shall yet never more offend you." "I beg of you to let me go, Mr. Evans," fhe replied; " let me go into the air: I did not expect such a speech from you, and far less that you should betray me into this horrid cavern to make me hear it." " Oh! best of women," said Evans, " say not I have betraved

betrayed you. I never did, nor ever with betray you; I have indeed betrayed myfelf; betrayed a fecret which I ought not to have revealed; which I should have locked up in my heart, till that wretched heart was broke with keeping it." "Well, let me pass, Mr. Evans," said she; "I did not desire to hear your secret, and wish to God I never had; let me pass, I desire you; I will hear nothing while you detain me in this odious cavern."

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Ned now rifing with the most respectful diffidence, led her out of the cave; and then requesting her to sit down for a little, she consent-"Oh! Miss Cecilia," said he; "I entreat you pardon me; on my knees I implore your forgiveness. Pity a heart that cannot live under your displeasure, and which never harboured a thought of you inconfistent with the purest honour and the profoundest reverence. If my unhappy passion has betrayed me into prefumption, impute it I befeech you to my youth and inexperience, to my country manners, and confined education. That I love you with all the powers of my foul, I have ventured to declare, and never will deny; but this is my miffortune, and not my fault. It is impossible to behold you and not to love you, and furely it can never be criminal to admire excellence wherever it is found. To have dared to hint to -you my passion, though in the most distant manner, was, I own, prefumption; and for this prefumption I entreat your pardon." "Mr. Evans," replied her ladyship, "you have my pardon; but when I had accompanied you alone in riding round this country, when I came with you to this folitary valley, and even ventured against my inclination into this odious cavern, I thought myself entitled to your protection, and little

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little expected you would infult me with a declaration of love." " Cruel, nay unjust Miss Rivers," faid Ned, reassuming some dignity, "when did I infult you? Know that it is not in my nature to infult the meanest woman upon earth, far less the idol of my soul's affection. If to love you with an ardour little short of adoration, with the tenderest and most difinterested passion, inspired indeed at first by your surprising beauty when I faw you in diffres, and fince confirmed by the furpassing excellence of your heart; if to know no happiness but in your prefence, to defire no bleffing but your welfare, and to be ready to lay down my life for your fake; if to express these sentiments in the humblest and most respectful terms, be to infult you, then have I miltaken the meaning of that word, and confess myself at a loss in what language to address you."-" I am forry, Mr. Evans," replied Lady Cecilia, "that I should have made use of a word which, I confess, is too severe, but which you have taken up in a much stronger manner than I had any intention of giving caufe for. I must therefore in my turn sue to you for pardon, for having used so unguarded an expression."-" But, oh! lovely Cecilia," interrupted Evans, "fue not to me for pardon, nor for any thing else-you are formed to command me, and my greatest pride shall be to be able to obey. It is now I fear that I have indeed infulted you, and that I am debtor to your goodness for being forgiven. Oh! pardon me, Miss Rivers, that I have prefumed to lift my aspiring thoughts to your perfections. The happiness that I have enjoyed in your company has intoxicated me, and made me to forget myfelf. Your native dignity has awoke me, and brought me ion, and to my fenses. Who you are I know not, nor - little VOL. I.

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what is your rank or fituation in life; I believe it, however, to be every thing that is noble and exalted. Pardon therefore, Miss Rivers, a prefumption which your own condescension has given birth to. I know I am not worthy of you, and am aftonished at my folly that could prompt your poor, forlorn, destitute Evans, without family, without fortune, without friends, and even without hope, to dare to lift his eyes fo far above him. Yet believe me, Miss Cecilia, no unworthy motive, no fordid view of interest or wealth, has driven me to this madness: it was yourfelf, your charming felf, that was alone the object of my contemplation. Ever fince Heaven restored you to our prayers, and that I have had the honour to attend you in these excursions, which were recommended for the re-establishment of your health, I have been dancing on a fea of pleasure too tumultuous for my judgment, and have suffered my imagination to roam into a fanciful elyfium, which I now know can never have a real existence; but I am now come home, Miss Cecilia, I will return to reason and myself. Forgive me then, Miss Rivers, this first, and this last transgression; restore me to that place in your esteem which my foolish prefumption has too justly forfeited; and though I can never cease to adore you, yet trust me I shall never more insult you with the avowal of my flame, though it should burn in secret till it consumes me."-" Why, Mr. Evans," faid Lady Cecilia, "do you again use a word which never should have passed between us? It is ungenerous thus to echo it upon me, when I have already apologized for ir, and am fincerely forry that it ever escaped me. I am abundantly fensible of your merits; infinitely grateful for the protection which your father has afforded me, and for the generous and

even heroic part which you yourself have acted towards me. You are therefore in full and fecure possession of my esteem, and you may be affured that neither it, nor my gratitude, can ever cease but with my life. But when you talk of love, you talk a language to which it does not become me to listen; and even suppose I could be so weak as to suffer my heart to be surprised, what would be the confequence but mifery to us both? I know my duty to my honoured and beloved father too well, ever to dispose of myself without his concurrence; and I know that he would have insuperable objections to our union, though I make no doubt but he will have a just and grateful fense of the obligations you have laid us under."-" Oh! lovely Cecilia," replied Evans, "talk not of obligations, for you owe me none; it is I that am infinitely your debtor, for I owe to you the knowledge of myself. It is enough that you forgive me, that your charming lips have pronounced my pardon, and that you have again reinstated me in your esteem. To-morrow separates us for ever. I shall never more fee you, nor behold you, nor hear the heavenly mufic of your voice. Your poor forlorn friend will lose the only happiness he has on earth, and you will no more be troubled with his importunities, or his complaints. Grant me then but one request. Grant it me, Miss Rivers, as the feal of my pardon, and I shall never trouble you with any thing more. Say, divine Cecilia, will you grant it me?" " What am I to grant you, Mr. Evans?" faid Lady Cecilia; " and what request can you make, confistent with honour and prudence, that I can wish to refuse you?" "O grant me!" he replied, "one lock of your lovely hair, to wear next my bolom, and to remind me in all my troubles, that I have

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I have one angel friend to wish me well."-" I know not," faid Lady Cecilia, " whether this request be consistent with prudence or not; but as the feal of your pardon I will give it you: and if you truly regard me as you fay, remember, Mr. Evans, that she who gave it you is sincerely your friend; that your happiness and your honour are very near her heart; and let the fight of it remind you never to do any thing unworthy either of yourself or her." So faying, she drew a pain of iciffars from her pocket-book, and prefented them to Evans to take the lock where he chose. He received them with rapture, and severed one where it could not be miffed, but which had played in a curling ringlet down her chafte and fnowy bosom.

He returned her the scissars on his knees; and, pressing her lovely hand to his lips, "What language can I find," said he, "in which to thank you for this inestimable gift! I know not what those stupid bigots feel who adore the filthy bones which the superstition of Rome has dignified with the name of relics: but I know, that as often as I look upon this hair, I shall feel my soul expand with every virtue; and I shall pray to him from whom alone come all good gifts, to make me worthy of the friend-

thip of Miss Cecilia Rivers & animanografial

Thus all was cleared, and peace and confidence fully re-established between them. They now mounted their horses to go home, when Lady Cecilia took one lingering and parting look at the spot where they had been sitting— Well, really, Mr. Edward, said she, "this is a most charming scene, and the cavern the finest union of the sublime and the beautiful that I believe nature ever produced: it is a subject for the pencil of Salvator Rosa, and has made

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made such an impression on my fancy that I think I could draw it myself."—" May it hever be erased then from your memory," said Evans, " as I assure you it never will from mine! and may my foolish presumption be buried in obtivion, that no circumstance may present itself to your remembrance to make the recollection of this scene unpleasing to you!"

They now rode towards home; but Lady Cecilia proposed calling on Miss Watkin, to take leave, as it was the last time she would have an opportunity of feeing her; and she prevailed on her to accompany them to Mr. Evans's, to fpend the evening there. They found Doctor lones already arrived, according to the invitation that was fent him. He was delighted to fee Lady Cecilia so persectly recovered, and was indeed astonished to behold the blaze of beauty that now furrounded her; which he had no idea of from the transient views he had of her in her fickness, and which received inexpressible addition from her native grace, her unaffected good humour, and from her feeming to be wholly unconscious that she excelled in any thing.

The day was passed with the utmost pleasantness, except that on the part of the Evans's it was a little chastised by the recollection that it was the last in which they were to enjoy her company, in all probability for ever; which was in truth to them become a serious missortune, as her many amiable qualities had so endeared her to the old man and his good woman, that they loved her with the affection of parents, and, next to Ned, considered her as the

dearest and nearest friend they had.

Before Doctor Jones went away, she took occasion to ask him apart for his bill; it amounted

to between three and four pounds: she gave him a bank note of ten pounds, which with great difficulty she obliged him to accept; and told him that she still considered herself as greatly his debtor, for his humanity and attention. This piece of generofity he disclosed to Mr. Evans before he left the house, which more and more confirmed his affection and ef-

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## CHAP. XII.

A HE morning now dawned ferene, and the fun faintly gilding the fummits of the mountains, shot his tremulous rays into the chamber where the lovely Cecilia was fleeping. A deep blush overspread her glowing cheek; and her dishevelled tresses, curling over her snowy neck, role and fell respondent to the short and interrupted heavings which marked fome inward agitation of her heart. Her heart indeed was the temple of innocence and unfullied purity, and, whether fleeping or waking, knew no thought, and owned no fentiment, that could ruffle its repose; but fancy at that instant had presented to her fleeping fenses a delufive dream, which caused her agitation. She imagined the hadbeen out riding with young Evans, and that they had taken their course to the romantic valley which they had visited the day before. The rocks and the trees glowed with an unufual verdure, and all the harmony of the vernal groves was tuned to entertain her. The cavern which had yesterday struck her with awe, was nowdivested of terrors, and all its rocks were covered, as she thought, with myrtles and roses, and a variety of other charming flowers, which diffused delicious odours through the whole vault. While all her senses were thus delighted, she beheld the image of Ned prostrate at her feet breathing the ardours of his passion,

and pleading his cause with all the energy of native eloquence. She fancied that she heard him with complacency, and that she was even on the point of consenting to an union, when a dreadful tempest rose suddenly in the cavern: the toses and the myrtles died away—the unfortunate Edward vanished, no where to be found—and she was left alone in the cave, in Stygian darkness, amidst the roar of waters, the bellowings of thunder, and the continual howl of raging

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How charmed was she when she awoke and found it all delusion; when the soft beams of a mild and temperate sun, now wholly risen above the horizon, dispelled the horrid vision, and, like herself beamed with beneficent ray on all around! She rose with joy from her bed; she blessed the new-born day; and poured out on her knees the essuions of a grateful adoration to that greatest and best of Beings, who in an instant can break down and make whole again, can draw us from the depth of misery, can illumine even the gloom of death—whose ear is never closed that it cannot hear, nor his hand shortened that it cannot save.

Eased now of her terrors, and her heart reftored to its tranquillity, she equipped hersels
for her journey, and, fresh and fragrant as the
moss rose which opens its dewy leaves to the
sweet morning of the first of June, she repaired
to breakfast to the parlour, where Mr. and Mrs.
Evans were already dressed to receive her. A
post-chaise had been ordered from Conway the
night before for her, by Doctor Jones when he
returned there, and was newly arrived to carry
her to Bangor Ferry; and poor Ned, who had
been long risen and dressed to attend his lovely
friend for the last time, had gone out to see that

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all was right, and his own horse ready, that he might accompany her. If Lady Cecilia had had disturbed repose, this affectionate youth had none. In the filence of night, when his thoughts were no longer amused by conversation, or the fight of furrounding objects, they naturally turned inwards on himself, and he imagined the awful darkness of that hour no improper emblem of the gloom of his own fituation. Now it was that he revolved in his foul all the transactions of the day; the image of the lovely Cecilia was ever present to his imagination; and her charming voice, enjoining him to love no more, still vibrated in his ear; while the facred lock, which for the first time had been his nightly companion, reclined upon his breast and instilled into it new fuel to increase his flame. Ah! hapless youth! you are yet a stranger to her exalted rank-to her princely fortune—to the elevated fentiments of her family, which, descended from a long line of illustrious ancestors, would shudder at the thought's of so unequal an alliance. Even she herself, the most virtuous of women and the most dutiful of children, too noble to conceive a passion which should appear below her; too wife to yield to it if she did conceive it; even she herfelf is leagued against you, and forms the strongest barrier to oppose your wishes. Summon then, ingenuous youth, your firmest resolution. All worthy and all manly as thou art, exert thy noblest courage, subdue yourself-subdue this unhappy passion, whilst yet it can be subdued, and do not cloud the golden morning of your life with hopeless love.

Mr. and Mrs. Evans and Lady Cecilia had begun breakfast before Ned came in. When he entered, her ladyship rose, and wished him a

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good morning. His eyes thanked her with the warmest gratitude; but his heart was too full to put his looks into language, and his tongue would have faltered in expressing it if he had. The truth is, that her ladyship herself was the only unembarraffed person in the company; and nothing but the pleasure she had in the hopes of so foon feeing her father and her friends, could have prevented her from being feized with the fame The moistened eyes which she foft infection. beheld around her, were however pleafing testimonies of the fincere affection in which she was held; and the amiable manners of her kind hosts, joined to a just sense of her obligation to them, riveted them in her heart with the strongest attachment: she therefore hastened to cheer both them and herfelf, by giving a livelier turn to their thoughts-" My dear and ever beloved friends," said she, " my kind and generous protectors, I fee by the fuffusion in your countenances how much I am indebted to your affection; and if at this instant I appear less moved, trust me it is not owing to any deficiency in the warmth of my gratitude, or in the truth and tenderness of my inviolable attachment.-You lose me, and it is my joy and my pride to fee it. You think you are going to lofe me, and that you will never fee me more. If I thought fo, you would not fee me thus unmoved, nor do I know to what lengths I might carry my afflicti-No, my beloved friends! be affured your Cecilia can never forget you—far less recollect you with indifference. How then should I apprehend that the narrow channel between Wales and Dublin should for ever separate me from your embraces, or that I should not have many opportunities of feeing my beloved friends, both in their country and my own? I am going to

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the arms of a beloved parent, who will refuse me nothing; I cannot conceal the pleasure of my foul in the prospect of soon beholding the paternal smile with which he ever meets his children; and I anticipate the rapture with which he will hear of my escape, and the gratitude with which his noble and generous heart will overflow, when I recount to him the tenderness and affection I have experienced at your hands. Cease then, my honoured friends, to grieve for my departure; for I foresee many happy days for us all, and many pleasing hours that I trust we shall yet fpend together."-" Excellent Miss Rivers!" faid Mr. Evans, "I admire the grace and beauty of your fentiments more than of your person; and I befeech the Almighty, who has promifed length of days to those who honour their father and their mother, that he will be graciously pleafed to make good that promife to you; extending your days to the longest period of human existence, and making them as happy and as prosperous as long. For us, we shall rejoice in every good that can befall you; we trust you will not deny us the pleasure to hear often from you; and, whether we ever meet again, or this is the last time we are to have that happiness, we shall never cease to pray for your prosperity, and to think of you with the tenderest affection and most profound respect."

Mrs. Evans joined in all these sentiments of her husband, and poor Ned looked a great deal more than he expressed. The carriage being at last ready, Mr. Evans conducted her to it, while Ned mounted his horse to see her safe over the ferry. As she was stepping into the chaise, she put five guineas into Mr. Evans's hand, requesting him to distribute it to such poor people in his neighbourhood as he knew

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stood most in need of it; and, waving her hand to Mrs. Evans in a last and tender adieu, she drove off.

Ned rode by the fide of the chaife; and the day being fine, he pointed out to her the many beautiful objects with which that road abounds; and Lady Cecilia, wishing to cheer his spirits, which the foon discerned were ebbed into his heart, endeavoured to give their converfation a lively turn, and talked of what she would do when the next visited Wales. In this manner did they pass the time till they came to Bangor Ferry, when a new chaife being to be got at the other fide, Ned went over in the boat with her to fee her fafe in it, and that she might have no trouble with her trunks or her postillions. The chaife was foon got, and the trying moment was just arrived when the faithful and affectionate Edward was to take his last adieu—when his heart was to be robbed of its beloved inhabitant, the defire of his eyes to be withdrawn from his view; never, perhaps never to behold her

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He bore this trial, however, as became a man -as one who knew how to feel, but who would not be overwhelmed. He conducted his adored Cecilia to the carriage, and, taking her hand (which she did not withdraw), two tender tears dropped on it as he placed her in her feat. These he respectfully kiffed off; and as he stood leaning on the door, two others, which appeared in his eyes, fell on a white handkerchief which he then held in his hand. Her ladyship, who beheld his fincere and filent forrow not without vifible emotion, was obliged, for the first time, to put her handkerchief also to her eyes-" Come," faid the, "generous Edward!" as the removed it, " I fee the tenderness of your heart, and I with at the tree to respect

respect it. Give me that handkerchief, and take you mine: they are embalmed with the tears of friendship, and ought not to be put to any vulgar use." "O beloved Cecilia!" replied he, "how gracious is this gift! Yes, I will retain it as a facred treasure-and when you see the two initials of my name, O remember your hapless Edward, and pray that I may be enabled to obey your last commands." The horses now moved —the friends were separated. She waved her hand from the window, and the forlorn Edward remained fixed till the turning of the road withdrew the carriage from his view. When he could no longer fee it, he still continued to listen to its leffening found, till the dying rumbling of the wheels was heard no more. At length he awoke from his trance. He repassed the ferry alone; and, mounting his horfe at Jackson's, returned with flow and forrowing steps to his father's.

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## CHAP. XIII.

IT was almost dark by the time he got home. His first care was to put up his horse in the stable, and to fet before him a good feed of oats and a rack full of the best hay: for, though poor Ned himself had not tasted a morfel since the morning, nor did even feel the least appetite, yet he very humanely confidered that honest Blackbird, strong as the friendship was between them, might not perhaps fympathize with him in all his feelings. He did not, however, on that account, follow the example of too many, who, when unhappy themselves, wish to make every one connected with them unhappy also; but he followed the natural bent of his inclination, which was to impart pleasure to the utmost of his power to every being around him, rational or irrational; and he justly thought, that if the divine Being had condescended to order that the ox which treadeth out the corn should not be muzzled, but should have his share of the corn for his wages, so it became him to provide a comfortable meal and lodging for the faithful beaft who had carried him without stumbling for twenty miles. And indeed it were to be wished that those who call themfelves good-natured people, would endeavour to manifest that amiable quality in all their actions; for I have often feen inflances where those who were esteemed the best-natured people in the world by their fuperiors, were held in a very different

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different light by their domestics—and he who was the delight of a whole company at a tavern, go home to be the terror of his wife and children. True good nature is the most exalted virtue of This is that virtue which St. Paul the foul. calls charity, and which, to be genuine, must be as extensive as creation. It must not confine its feelings to its friends and benefactors, nor even to its species. It must defire the happiness of universal nature; as far as is in its power it must promote it; and it must not behold without commiseration the sufferings of the meanest worm. With this virtue was our Ned possessed, as much as ever it was possessed by any human being; and now having feen all things right in the stable, he went into the house to his father.

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The good old man he found cheering himself with a pipe and a mug of ale, while Mrs. Evans was preparing to make tea for herfelf and Miss Watkin, who had come to fpend the evening with her, and to confole her friends for the absence of their late guest. And in truth this act of friendship was not unnecessary; for if one usually finds a want after parting with a common acquaintance, after having been any time together, much more did Evans and his wife regret the loss of Lady Cecilia, whom they truly loved The whole as if the was their own daughter. of the conversation turned upon her many virtues and engaging qualities, and the women would give scope to fanciful hopes of profit and advantage that might arise from her acquaintance. But these Mr. Evans checked, declaring that he defired no profits or advantages further than the consciousness of having done his duty, and the pleasure it gave him to think he had been of any ule to her; but as for any change in his worldly fituation, he did not know that it could be change

ed for the better, at least not for any in which he could be more contented. "Well-but, my dear," faid Mrs. Evans, "who knows but Mifs's father may be some great man, as indeed I am convinced from her appearance that he is ?- and who knows but he may get you a living, or perhaps make you an Irish bishop?" Evans looked at her with an eye of pity, not wholly free from contempt. " My dear," faid he, "I would advise you not to feed your fancy with such romantic and abfurd expectations, which will never produce any thing but disappointment. My head does not ach for a mitre, which I am convinced would neither become it fo well, nor fit to eafy upon it as the worsted night-cap you were fo good as to knit for me last week. Miss Rivers's father may, for aught I know, be a great man: but you know nothing of the great, if you think they are disposed to give magnificent rewards for small obligations; they rate the value of their favours at full as much as they are worth, and indeed seldom bestow any thing for nothing except promises."

Ned fat for the most part silent, wholly wrapped up in the contemplation of Cecilia herself, and altogether indifferent to the titles and mitres either of her father or his own. He longed for the hour of rest, which was to free him from the embarrassiment of company; when he might indulge his thoughts without witnesses or interruption—could class the facred ringlet to his bosom, and feed upon that fatal slame which de-

lighted while it confumed him.

Several days now passed over without any remarkable occurrence happening, except that both Mr. and Mrs. Evans were alarmed at the visible change in Ned's disposition. He was no longer the gay, the easy, cheerful lad, with joy

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laughing in his eyes, and health beaming on his cheek. He no longer rose with the sun to help his father in the garden, or follow the hounds with his favourite companions. He fometimes rode out indeed, but it was always alone; and once or twice he was absent from morning till night without any person's knowing where he had been. In company he appeared dull and inattentive, and at all times feemed immeried in fome profound contemplation. As his colour began visibly to fade, and his flesh to waste, both Mr. and Mrs. Evans were greatly alarmed, and not without reason, apprehending that he was going fast into a decline. This, however, feemed to opposite to his constitution, that they could hardly imagine it; and the pious Evans began to fear that he might have some secret complaint which he was afraid to own, but which required the aid of physic. He determined therefore to watch him close, and, if he found any confirmation of this suspicion, to apply immediately to Doctor Jones. He thought unworthily, however, of his boy, and had the great fatisfaction to be foon convinced that he did fo; for, going one morning into Ned's room when he was out riding, he there found his escritoir open, which he had forgot to lock; and as several papers were lying on it, he could not refift a father's curiofity (which perhaps in his case was fully justifiable) to examine them.

Here were found several little landscapes of places in the neighbourhood, some of them only sketched, and some nearly finished, in all of which were introduced two figures either riding or sitting, which Mr. Evans imagined bore some resemblance to the forms of Lady Cecilia and his son. There were some attempts to take a likeness of her seatures; but these were very imper-

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fect, though sufficiently like to indicate for whom they were designed. In one corner lay the sacred ringlet, carefully deposited in a small waser box, and on a loose bit of paper were written the following unfinished lines:

Why finks my foul beneath this leaden gloom?

What woe is this that steals my youth away?

Why wish I for thy cold embrace, my tomb,

Ere twenty suns have seen my natal day?

No youth whose gentle heart with mine was twin'd In friendship's holy bond, hath prov'd untrue: Nor to the grave has cruel death consign'd One kindred name whose loss I need to rue.

No foul dishonour stains my youthful fame,
No fecret guilt appalls my conscious soul;
I never ting'd my parents' cheeks with shame,
Nor wish'd to wander from their just controul.

Why fink I then beneath this leaden gloom?
What woe is this that steals my youth away?
O love! O cruel love! you write my doom,
You fign my death—and I, content, obey.

But if the angel maid for whom I die, Who heard my vows, and yet

When Mr. Evans had read thele lines, he was no longer at a loss to know the true cause of Ned's distemper; and great was his satisfaction to find his suspicions had been unjust, and that there was not the least reason to be apprehensive of his going into a decline. His being in love gave him no manner of uneasiness, as he thought it nothing but what was natural to his age and constitution, especially as the object of his affections was so supremely amiable. He saw indeed the folly of his passion, and the great improbability of its ever being gratified; but he could not consider it: he therefore determined to treat it with

jocularity, and to find out some employment for Ned that should wean him from it by degrees. As for the escritoir, he left it just as he found it, and hastened to impart his discovery to his wife. That good woman was rejoiced to find it was nothing but love, which she considered in the same light as a fit of the gripes, and almost as easy to be cured:—but it must be remembered that she was sifty-six years of age, and that it is much to be doubted whether she ever was possessed of the tender and exquisite sensibility of the gentle and refined Edward.

A little before dinner he came home, and, going into his room, was aftonished to see his efcritoir open. When he saw, however, the key in it, and all his papers just as he had left them, he was fatisfied that nobody had seen them; and, hastily locking them up, he made a secret vow

never to be fo careless again.

At dinner he could hardly eat any thing, tho' he had taken a long ride, and though Mrs. Evans had provided fomething that she knew he liked. However, she did not urge him; but when the cloth was removed. Mr. Evans proposed drinking one of the bottles of wine, which had been left by Lady Cecilia, to her health, and to the hopes of speedily hearing some good account of Ned's eyes brightened a little at this proposal; and the wine being brought, he turned over a full bumper to the toast, seemingly with great fatisfaction. " Hah, hah! young man," faid Mr. Evans, "I fee what fauce it is that whets your appetite.—Had it been the custom to eat healths, as well as drink them, I fancy the hare we had to-day would not have gone away for whole." Ned was going to fay fomething in reply, when the old man interrupted him-"Come, come," faid he, "I hate these lead,

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glooms; 'tis time enough for an old fellow like me to be longing for the tomb. Youth is the feason of joy, and we should never give up any of it to forrow, for which we shall find abundant leisure afterwards. So come, my boy, drink another bumper to 'May we have in our arms whom we love in our hearts!"

Poor Ned's face was now one univerfal glow of crimfon—he plainly faw his fecret was discovered, and that his father had feen the verses, and the hair, and all the rest of it. He pledged the toast, however, which he drank with no less fatisfaction than the first. And Mr. Evans, continuing his vein of humour, he at length brought Ned almost into the same tune, and they finished their bottle very cordially between them. His fpirits being fomewhat raifed by the wine, and his heart warmed by the engaging openness with which his father treated him, he disclosed to him his whole foul-related all the progress of his love, the adventure of the cave, the attainment of the lock of hair, the exchange of the handkerchiefs, and all the hopes and fears which were preying alternately on his mind.

Happy fon! who, when the forrows of your heart required the comfort of a friend, whose wisdom could advise, and whose gentleness could

foothe-found that friend in a father!

Happy father! who uniting the candour and openness of youth to the wisdom and experience of age, who seeking a friend to form to virtue, and to be the honour and the comfort of your declining years, found that friend in a son!

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NED having thus unbosomed himself to his father, found an infinite load of anxiety moved from his breast, and a fecret spring of comfort began to rife in his foul, that feemed to promife the return of peace, though he knew not from what quarter she was to come. Sleep too, who like a false friend had forsaken him the moment he was in adversity, was pleased this night to revisit him, and sealed his eyelids in such profound repose as steeped all his senses in forgetfulness. Not so the worthy curate, who, notwithstanding the pleafantry with which he treated Ned's passion to himself, was yet sincerely alarmed for its consequences. He knew the irresistible fury with which love blazes in some bosoms, and he more than suspected that Ned's was stored with whatever is supposed to add fuel to that slame.

When therefore he considered the innumerable beauties both of mind and body which centred in Lady Cecilia, he did not wonder at his son's attachment, nor doubt but that it would be lasting; but when he restected on his humble fortune, and the probable situation of the lady, he trembled for the unhappy youth, and saw nothing before him but sorrow and disappointment. He determined therefore, the very next morning, to set his danger full in his view; and as he wisely considered that idleness was the food of love, so he determined, without longer de-

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lay, to engage Ned in some active business, that should engross both his time and his attention. But here was the difficulty—what that business was to be, was the great question, and really it was a question that could not easily be determined-Not that it was at all difficult to find out what Ned was fit for; for there was nothing for great but what he had both capacity and induftry to attain-but, alas! the means were wanting,-for who can attain any thing now-a-days without money? and where could our poor curate procure it, with a family, and an income of only forty pounds a year! And yet, out of this pittance, he had had the prudence always to have a whole year's income lying by him, in case of any sudden emergency, and he had the great and fingular felicity not to owe a shilling in the world.

These advantages however could avail but little in procuring for Ned any reputable employment; and neither his spirit nor his education could brook a fituation, however profitable, that should throw him out of the rank in which he had always lived. He had now just completed his nineteenth year, and under the tuition of his father, who was an excellent scholar, had attained as great a flock both of classical and scientifical knowledge as any young man of his vears could do in any fituation whatfoever. It was the defign of Mr. Evans to fend him to the university if possible, and to educate him for his own profession—but the narrowness of his circumstances would not allow it. And why he should think of the church, in which he himfelf, and even his father before him, had fuch ill fuccess, can only be accounted for from the extreme reverence in which he held every thing belonging to religion, and that both his father's experithat

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experience and his own had convinced him that it is possible to be happy in the humblest situation which the church affords—for old Mr. Evans had lived a contented curate to the eighty-fifth year of his age, and now he himself was approaching the sixtieth of his, without ever being able to get a step higher, though possessed of virtues and abilities to adorn the highest. But here let us not blame too hastily the right reverend prelates, to whom the care of the church is entrusted.

Their lordships consider christianity as a glorious edifice, of which they for a time have the care, and which it is their duty to transmit to posterity in all its strength and beauty. Men therefore of consummate virtue and abilities, they rightly esteem its strongest support, which, like foundation stones, should always be placed in the lowest part of the building, whilst the more shewy qualifications of courtly manners, splendid names, sine fortunes, great connections, &c. &c. resemble the cornices and corinthian capitals, which, though entirely useless in themselves, and unnecessary, yet always occupy the highest stations, being well calculated to surprise the vulgar and make the people stare.

As the church is now fettled in its glory (from which may it never fall!), its learned and most reverend bishops, who boast themselves to be the successors of the apostles, have no manner of resemblance to the ignorant and barefooted sishermen who went by that name in primitive times; their lordships therefore cannot be too much praised for putting into conspicuous stations, those whose qualifications resemble their own, because this prevents schism, and because it was truly the apostolic method; whilst those who in their morals and conduct imitate the

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manners of the first apostles, should, like them, be exposed to hunger and thirst, to cold and nakedness, to fastings and weariness, to journeyings often, and perils from their own countrymen.

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This to be fure is the reason why we see so many wise and virtuous characters among the lowest order of inferior clergy, who, like the dogs in the parable, are fed with the crumbs that fall from their master's table; and who may think themselves very well off that they are not,

like other dogs, kicked out of the room.

These anxieties and contemplations kept our venerable curate from closing his eyes this night. In the morning he met Ned, who, refreshed with fleep, to which he had been fo long a stranger, and disencumbered of a great part of the load which hung upon his spirits, had recovered a good deal of his usual looks, and feemed quite a different man from what he had been for some time past. Mr. Evans led him into the garden, and, feating themselves on that bank which the charming Cecilia had so often pressed, he began seriously to unfold to Ned the probable consequences of his passion if indulged, the absolute necessity he was under of subduing it, and to confult his inclinations on what mode, of life he would purfue, that was compatible with their circumstances and situation. I will not tire my readers with a repetition of the arguments and eloquence which he made use of, because I hope that very sew of them, if any at all, may be in a fimilar fituation to our unhappy Edward; but I will beg of them to imagine every thing that wisdom, prudence, generolity, friendship, tenderness, and parental affection could fuggest, and then perhaps they may form some faint resemblance of Evans's oratory on

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this occasion, which was not spoken to a dull or unlistening ear, but which sunk deep into the mind, and into the heart of his son. Ned saw the precipice on which he stood, as clearly as his father could shew it to him; but he stood in need of his supporting hand to save him from growing giddy, and tumbling headlong down. The arguments therefore of his father had with him the weight of commands, and he declared himself ready instantly to adopt any occupation which he should recommend.

The next point to be confidered was what occupation—and here indeed lay the difficulty. The church was out of the question; for, even had it been agreeable to Ned, he was not yet of age to enter into it, and his disorder required an immediate remedy. The army was his passion -and indeed this would have been most eligible, -but, alas! where were the means? The curate had no interest—and, what was worse, no money. This profession therefore was obliged to be relinquished with a figh. They next turned their thoughts to Doctor Jones. cine was honourable, even in its inferior departments; and if it is true that apothecaries gain elevenpence halfpenny in every shilling's worth they fell, the profession must be allowed to be lucrative. But lones had two apprentices already; and Ned confessed that though the business was lucrative, yet it did not charm him much; as it subjected the practitioner always to distressing, and often to disgusting scenes; and that for his part he thought a fiddler's life much happier, at least much merrier, than a physician's; and Ned was fond of mirth.—This prosession was also laid aside. At length Mr. Evans recollected an old acquaintance of his, who had owed his education to his father, and who, it VOL. I.

was faid, had made a large fortune by his practice as an attorney. Now, if those who win may laugh, as the proverb fays, here was a profession in which Ned might be as merry as he pleased; and Mr. Evans did not make the least doubt but his old friend and playfellow, Mr. Muckworm, would repay the obligations which he owed to the family. by taking Ned as his apprentice without a fee, and by giving him his diet and lodging for the use his pen could be of to him. As Ned made no objection to this scheme, Mr. Evans declared he would set about it that very day, and go and vifit his old friend, whom he had not feen for forty years.—He anticipated the joy with which he should renew his acquaintance with the companion of his childhood-the pleasure with which they should talk over their boyish days-and the supreme delight which it must give to Muckworm thus to repay the great obligations which he owed to the family of Evans.

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## CHAP. XV.

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IVAR. Josiah Muckworm, the gentleman to whole house Mr. Evans was now going, was the fon of Mr. Jeremiah Muckworm, who for forty years had served the office of parish clerk, in the church where Mr. Evans's father was curate. His falary as clerk was about five pounds a year, which never could have maintained his family if he had not also kept a little day school, where children were taught their catechism, and o read and write, for half-a-crown a quarter, which brought him in as much more, kept body and foul together, and put a decent fuit of clothes on his back on Sunday; on which he always got his dinner at old Mr. Evans's after he and his wife had done, and little Josiah used to come often to get a piece of pudding and play with ur worthy curate, who was then a boy much bout his own age. As Josiah was a shrewdooking boy, and behaved with great decency nd humility, old Mr. Evans was well pleafed have him for a companion to his fon; and when the latter was old enough to begin Latin, e thought it would be a good action to give the ther some education, of which he seemed exemely susceptible; and that it might be of adantage to his fon to have him for a competitor, om that time he took him home to his own oute, and treated him in every respect like his wn fon. The two boys ate together, read to-G 2 gether, gether, and slept together, and neither Mr. nor Mrs. Evans made any difference between them; or, if they did, it seemed in favour of Muckworm, who was of a puny and timid disposition, but extremely shrewd and cunning, and so humble and submissive that he would clean any body's shoes for a halfpenny—whilst, on the contrary, young Evans was a sturdy boy, full of life and spirit, and would have knocked any person down, or at least attempted it, who should propose such an office to him. He was also full of generosity and good nature; a remarkable instance of which he gave even at those tender

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There was a little garden at the back of his father's house, and in that garden a standard apple tree of an excellent kind, and a very great bearer. There happened to be a great scarcity of fruit one year, and apples were very dear; but on this tree there was a tolerable crop, and old Evans intended to fell the fruit of it, which in that year would have been worth fomething, and to have laid out the produce in a new gown for his wife, and a new fuit of clothes for little Evans—but, alas! just as they were ripening, they were all carried off in one night, and fold nobody knows where. Mr. and Mrs. Evans were very much mortified at it, and the old gentleman was determined to find out the thief. He was indeed nearer home than he expected; for it was no other than little Muckworm himself, who could not refift the temptation of the price they would fetch, and who, in conjunction with another imp in the parish, who had the charge of telling them in a neighbouring town, stripped them all off one night after the family was gone to bed, and whilst little Evan, his bedsellow, was fast asleep. As Mr. Evans, however, continned

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tinued his fearch, Muckworm began to be terribly frightened, and, relying on the goodness and love which he knew young Evan had for him, he confessed it all to him, and faid he would run away, for he was sure his father would whip him to death when it was found out. Poor little Evan, who could not bear to part with his play-fellow, whom he loved much better than he deserved, bade him stay and not be afraid, and that he would take the blame on himself.

The next day, finding his father still busy in his enquiries, and determined to lift the matter, he went to his mother, and, falling on his knees, told her that he had stolen the apples himself with an intent to fell them, and had hid them for that purpole, but that somebody else had imelled them where they lay together, and that he had loft them all except a few that he had eaten. Mrs. Evans was very much furprised at this confession, and gave him a long lecture upon honesty; and his father was so inconsiderate as to give him a good whipping, which he received, however, without flinching, horied upon the back of Muckworm, who laughed in himfelf at the fuccess of his cunning, and had afterwards the meanness to boast of it.

The two lads lived on together till old Mr. Evans died, when a distant relation had the goodness to finish young Evans's education at the college, and Muckworm got to be clerk to an attorney of eminence, under whom he profited so much as to succeed him in his business; by an indefatigable attention to which, joined to a great appearance of fanctity, and a most rigid economy, he in a short time amassed a considerable sum. He then turned methodist, a religion which he found extremely well suited to his disposition,

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position, as it considers all good works to be like filthy rags, and the purest virtue to be nothing but splendid sin, unpleasing to God, by whom faith only is accepted. As he now became rich, and held all good works in abhorrence, he became a faint with that party, which recommended him to a valt increase of business, and to several executorships, by which his coffers soon became full. He was now the universal banker of the county, and, by timely loans, on good fecurity, with a small premium, &c. &c. he was at this time one of the richest men in it. As it was a matter of twenty miles from his house to that of Mr. Evans, and their line of life was so different, they had never feen one another from their hrst separation; Mr. Evans not having any eltate to give a mortgage on, and Mr. Muckworm being to immerfed in business that he had not a fingle moment to bestow on any other consideration.

As he approached the house he was struck with the loneliness of the situation, and a want of neatness in the sences, gates, and offices, which gave it a look of poverty and ruin, rather than the dwelling of a man of opulence. Being arrived at the outer gate, a huge and hungry mastiff attacked the horse, who would certainly have thrown Mr. Evans, if a country sellow who was in the yard had not come to his assistance, and driven the dog away. He then asked if Mr. Muckworm was at home? and the man said he would go and see.

Evans waited near a quarter of an hour with his horse in his hand before the man came back, when telling him he was, he took the horse, and led him away to the stable. A boy with a ragged livery conducted Mr. Evans to his master's room. The room was of a moderate size,

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but so crowded with book-cases, desks, and a large writing table, that there was but little room to stir in it. The dust lay so thick on the books as made it evident it was never fwept; and the windows being fecured both within and without with iron bars, gave it more the air of a prison than a parlour. Muckworm was fitting in an arm chair, dressed in an old brown damask nightgown, much the worse for the wear, and which feemed to be of the same piece with the covering of the elbow chair; he had a nightcap of the fame on his head, with a linen one under it; while his wig, with long grey curls, was suspended on a fire-screen in the corner. He had his spectacles on, and a pen in his mouth; in one hand was a pair of money scales, and on the table was a large green velvet bag, which feemed almost full of guineas, several piles of which, that he had been weighing, were standing round it. When Mr. Evans entered the room, Muckworm made a flight inclination of his head; and the good curate going to thake hands with him, Muckworm begged him to fit down, for he was in the midst of an important calculation, which when he had finished he would hear his bufinefs.

Evans was a little disappointed at this reception; but concluding, as was indeed true, that Muckworm did not know him, he was not much disconcerted. The other continued counting and weighing and piling up light guineas, which he separated from those that were weight, for near a quarter of an hour without speaking a word, or even once raising his eyes, while Evans surveyed him with a mixture of pity, astonishment, and contempt. He saw with pity the alteration which time had made on that countenance, which in their boyish days he had

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fo often beheld with transport. He saw with aftonishment how much deeper the furrows of care were impressed upon his features, than those of time; and he could not behold without contempt, a wretch wasted by avarice to a shadow, and grasping in his feeble hands that gold which he never had spirit to enjoy, and which his wan and meagre aspect seemed to threaten that he foon must leave. At length Muckworm pulled off his spectacles; and wiping his pen, which he carefully laid by, he asked Mr. Evans what were his commands with him? "Is it possible, Mr. Muckworm," faid Mr. Evans, "that you should forget your old friend?"-" I protest, Sir," faid Muckworm, " you have the advantage of me, and I do not recollect ever feeing you before." "Did you ever know any one of the name of Evans?" faid the curate. "Evans!" replied Muckworm, "I know Sir Hugh Evans of Montgomeryshire, and Captain Evans of the navy, his nephew." . " I thought in the earlier part of your life," faid the parson, "there were fome others of the name to whom you owed fome obligation." "Obligation!" faid Muckworm, " what obligation? I remember indeed one Evans, an old man, who was curate of the parish where I was born: I believe he might have christened me, if that is an obligation; but he died before I was of age to enter into any legal obligation."—" Alas! Mr. Muckworm," faid Evans, "I find I have mistaken you. I have feen the days when you thought otherwife of my father, and when you considered me as the dearest friend you had."-" Why, Sir, is your name Evans?" rejoined Muckworm. "Yes, Sir," faid the other; "my name is Evan Evans, whom in the days of innocence and childhood you knew well; though now you feem to have forith

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forgotten me." " Really, Mr. Evans," replied Muckworm, " it is fo long fince I have feen you, I think near forty years, that it is no wonder that I had forgotten you-But how has the world gone with you, Mr. Evans? Have the bishops been as mindful of you as of your father?" "I have no reason to complain of the world," faid Mr. Evans, " and I hope it has none to complain of me. I enjoy what is to me a competence, with health and a quiet conscience, without obligations to bishops, or indeed to any except him that made me." " I am glad to hear you are fo independent," replied Muckworm; "I suppose then, by this unexpected vifit, you have a purchase to make, or some money to lend on a good mortgage—is it fo?" "I am neither a money-lender nor a money-borrower," replied Evans. "You are then a most extraordinary character," faid Muckworm; " for I have hardly feen a face thefe twenty years at my house that did not come to borrow— Why now I am just making up a fum of 5000l. to lend to Sir Thomas Spendall my neighbour here; who with an estate of 10,000l. a year is always in want of cash: this is the fourth sum to the fame amount I have lent him within these six months." "Bless me!" said Evans, " 20,000l. in fix months! And have you fuch prodigious fums by you as that, Mr. Muckworm?" "Why yes, Mr. Evans, I thank God, Heaven has prospered my industry. Whoever comes after me will find I did not hide my talent in a napkin." "No, I dare fay," replied Mr. Evans; "I fancy you have made good interest on it." "Pretty well, pretty well; the Lord has been favourable to me-he entrusted me with a little, and I have doubled it G 3 a hun-

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a hundred fold. Between you and me, if I live a few years longer, I shall have all Sir Thomas's estate: he has not been five years in possession of it, and he has spent above 100,000l. Oh! if his father faw how his favings melted away, it would make him fester in his shrowd." "Pray," faid Mr. Evans, "how does Sir Thomas spend these monstrous sums? I have not the pleasure to know him, but I have always heard he had a most excellent character, and his tenants fay he is the best landlord in the world." " Ay, they fay—because they eat his beef, and guzzle his ale; but I fay he is the worst of landlords, for he does nothing but encourage idleness and profligacy. His house is a palace where the great are entertained like princes, and his fervants' hall a rendezvous where all the beggars in the country, and their brats, may fill their bellies every day; and he is such a fool, that if they tell him of their wants and their diffresses, he will give them his money into the bargain; nay, he will part with the clothes off his back. Why there was one of his tenants died last year above 300l. in his debt. He was in possession of a good farm, that was worth a great deal more than he gave for it; and I myielf offered fifty pounds a year advance, in order to let it to another for double that fum; when (would you' think it?) Sir Thomas would not hear of it, because for iooth the man's widow had been his nurse's daughter, and she had five children to provide for; and so the fool not only continued her in the farm, but also forgave her the debt. Such a man, Mr. Evans, will always be in want of money." "God forbid!" faid Evans; "'tis a great pity he should want it."-" I'll tell you another exploit of his," faid Muckworm. "You" mult

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must know, he has lately erected a temple to the devil."-" God bless us!" interrupted Evans, " a temple to the devil! I never heard of fuch a thing in a christian country." "Hav'n't you?" faid Muckworm: "There is not a town in England scarce but has one." "What do you mean?" faid Evans: " I never heard the like before." "Why I mean a play-house," faid Muckworm; "a private theatre, in imitation of those vile temples of Covent-Garden and Drury-Lane; where he and his company act stage-plays, and all manner of wickedness and profaneness; and where he has even-mutic upon the Lord's day. But now for the exploit.—You must know Sir Thomas is a great lover of mufic; and some time ago he got one of those Italian fellows from London, one Squallini, to come down to live with him, and to fing upon his theatre; and he had given him a deed for an annuity of no less a sum than 500l. a year for his lite." " A great fum indeed," faid Mr. Evans, " for a few fongs!" " Nay, but you shall hear," faid Muckworm; "he did not get the fongs neither. When he came down to the country, Signor Squallini came with him; and a vast deal of company, as usual, came to pay their compliments, and to hear this famous Italian fing. After supper Sir Thomas asked Squallini to favour the company with a fong. Squallini faid he was hoarfe, and could not fing; but being preffed hard, he faid to Sir. Thomas-'What, Sir Thomas, do you think me come here to be de buffoon?—Me fing for you, Sir Thomas, when alone; and me vil fing upon your theatre: but me will not be made de buffoon for any company in Europe.' In short, nothing could prevail on him to fing. The company,

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company, who knew the falary he had, were amazed. Sir Thomas was so chagrined, that in a few days he turned Squallini out of his house; but he could not reverse his deed. The fellow came to me-I gave him 1000l. for it; and Sir Thomas must pay me 500l. a year as long as Squallini lives." "And can you think it honourable,'; faid Evans, " to be concerned in fuch an affair?" "Why not?;' replied Muckworm: "I look upon every thing to be honourable that is lawful." " All things that are lawful, however," faid Evans, " are not expedient; and I should have thought it more honourable, if the Italian would fell his annuity, to have let the poor gentleman who gave it to him have had the advantage of it." "You think very differently from me," replied Muckworm; " and fince you have quoted rhe great apostle, I must also tell you that he says, ' He who doth not provide for his own is worse than an infidel;' in which great truth I fully agree with him. And now, Mr. Evans, give me leave to ask if you have any particular business with me?"

Evans, who was long ere this completely difgusted and disappointed, replied, "Not very particular." I thought indeed it might have been agreeable to you to meet an old friendwhom you had not seen for forty years; and if it had been so, I proposed consulting you about putting my son to your busines, who is an exceeding good young man, and has now just completed his nineteenth year." "That's rather too old, rather too old," said Muckworm: "pray what education has your son got, Mr. Evans?" "He has got the best that I could give him," replied our curate. "He is well grounded in Greek and re

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Latin, an excellent English scholar; can read Homer and Virgil ad unguem, and is well versed in history both ancient and modern." " A fig for Homer and Virgil," faid Muckworm, " and all fuch heathenish nonsense; they fill a man's head with romantic notions about virtue, and honour, and heroism, and stuff, which serves no purpose but to mar his fortune." "What!" faid Mr. Evans, " are virtue and honour only names, and is there any thing on earth of equal value?" "I tell you," faid Muckworm, "I would not give my old shoe for all the virtue and honour upon earth. These are inventions of the devil to disparage the only virtue, which is faith. All human actions are finful, and whoever relies on good works relies on the rubbish. Your poets, therefore, and your historians, your orators and your philosophers, are all agents of the devil, and enemies to Christ. For my part, I would burn all their books together, with those that wrotesthem, and fuffer no books to remain but law-books and the gospel. If I had had the training of your boy myself," faid Muckworm, " perhaps I might have made fomething of him, but as it is, I can be of no fort of fervice to you." "God be praifed you had not," faid Evans; and for fing up to go away, Mr. Muckworm pulled the bell, and the ragged livery boy, whom we mentioned before, appearing, he defired him to get Mr. Evans's horse. The honest curate Nastily mounted him, and turned his back for ever on Muckworm and his inhospitable doors.

## CHAP. XVI.

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AT was near two o'clock in the afternoon, in the middle of December, when Mr. Evans left Mr. Muckworm's. He had rode thither twenty miles from his own house that morning, and the hospitality of Muckworm had not, as we have feen, offered him the refreshment even of a glass of wine. And poor Blackbird had fared no better; for though he was admitted into what they called the stable, yet for any good he got there he might as well have been in a pound. He had not carried his master above five miles in his way home, when the night began to approach, and, what was worse, it brought with it a violent tempest of wind and sleet. Poor Evans, who had not tasted a morsel since he left home, been to droop under the uneafy fenfations boils cold and hunger. He was a stranger in that part of the country, and long looked out for fome friendly roof, that might at least afford him thelter; but nothing appeared before him but a waste and dreary common.—At length, as it was growing almost quite dark, he espied a light which seemed to glimmer through the window of some little cottage; and honest Blackbird making an effort to go down the lane which led to it, the worthy curate took his advice, and in a few minutes arrived at a human dwelling.

dwelling.—Though it was but a cottage, and that too of the meanest kind, yet the finding it was now a comfort; and Evans gently tapping at the door, it was opened by an old woman feemingly about fixty years of age. "Honest woman," faid Evans, " can you give shelter to a poor benighted old man, who will heartily thank you for the liberty of your roof and fire?" " Yes, name of God, can I," faid the old woman, " and a thousand welcomes; and to your horse too .- Johnny, come here, boy, and take the gentleman's horse, and put him up. befide the cow, and give him a lock of hay." "God bless you, my good woman!" said Evans, "and you too, my pretty boy!" said he to the child, who was about ten years old. "I do not know what I should have done if I had not met with you." "The night is parlous cold," faid the dame; " but walk in, fir, and warm yourfelf at the fire: the cottage is small, but it is clean, and you are kindly welcome to all it can afford."-Evans gladly accepted this friendly invitation, and, walking in, found a clear fire on a clean hearth; and litting down in a straw chair which was at hand, he felt himself a thousand times more comfortable than he could have been in the best room in Muckworm's house. The good woman, who now faw by his drefs that he was a clergyman, redoubled her attention; for, notwithstanding the poverty of the Welch clergy, which is known even to a proverb, yet there is no country in which the ministerial character meets more respect. " Lord bless your reverence," faid she, " what brings you out such an evening at this, and where have you dined?"-"Indeed, my good woman," faid Evans, "I

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have hardly tailed food to-day." " Name of God," faid she, "not tasted food !- I'se warrant you've been at Mr. Muckworm's." "You have just hit it," faid Evans, "I have come from there indeed." " Aye, name of God! I thought fo: he's a parlous rich man, but he would skin a louse for the hide. Well, God forgive him! but if it had not been for him, I need not have been here to-day." "Why, did he ever injure you?" faid Evans. "No, name of God, I must not say that-he sought but his own, to be fure; though it killed my poor hufband, and brought me to ruin." " How is that, my poor woman?" faid Evans; "how is that?" "I'll tell your reverence all by and by," faid the good woman; "but first I will get you fomething to eat, for I am fure you stand in need of it."

She now spread a clean napkin on a little table, and, putting a faucepan on the fire, boiled half a dozen new-laid eggs. She laid down fome butter and cheefe of her own make, which with new-churned butter-milk, and some fresh oaten bread, afforded Evans the most delicious repast he had ever made; -not that the materials were better than what he had been accustomed to at home, but her generous hospitality, contrasted with the churlishness of Muckworm, touched his heart, and gave an inconceivable relish to his entertainment. Often did he wish for the power of Elijah, that her measure of corn should not waste, nor her cruise of oil be diminished. When he had finished his comfortable meal, and given thanks first to his Maker, and then to his entertainer, he begged of the good woman to fit down, and gratify the curiofity fine had excited. " Alas,

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"Alas, fir!" faid she, "my story is very simple, and your reverence will hardly think it worth the hearing; yet for want of better I will tell it you, to amuse you till you go to sleep. My maiden name was Jane Williams, and my father was a farmer in Denbighshire; he was well to live, and was faid to have plenty of money besides his stock. But it was my misfortune to disoblige him, by marrying without his consent. There was a young man came to live with him whose name was Edward Maurice; as handsome a lad to look to, as you would see in a summer's day—well, rest his soul!—I trust he is with God.

"This lad was not long at the house, before he eyed me with particular regard-and to fay the truth, I looked on him with equal affection; but as the poor lad had nothing but his labour to depend on, I knew my father and mother would never confent to our being married: we therefore determined not to ask them; but going once together to a fair, we took advantage of that opportunity, and were married for half a crown, by a gentleman who was preaching in a field to a great congregation. Well, we kept all fecret for some time, till at length it became necessary to tell it, or a little one would do it for us; and then my parents were to enraged, that they turned us both out of doors, and gave me nothing but the clothes on my back; nor would they ever afterwards be reconciled. My poor Edward however did not make the worse husband for that, but carried me to another part of the country, to his mother, who received me kindly; and there I lay in, and lived some years as happy as the day was long. At last the good old woman died; and then my husband, who by

his industry had scraped together a little matter of money, refolved to take a farm himfelf. We rented one of about 20l. a year from the late Lord Squanderfield, and for three-andtwenty years that we were his lordship's tenants, we did very well, and always paid our rent. I had feveral children in that time; but none of them grew to be men, except my oldest fonand alas! he too is now gone." "When did he die?" faid Mr. Evans. " He was killed fighting for his country," faid the poor woman. "Alas! the pity," faid Evans, and wiped a tear from his eyes. "Come hither, Johnny," faid she; "go shew yourself to that gentleman. This, fir, is my grandion, my fon's fon-the only comfort I have left." "He is a fine boy," faid Evans, clapping him on the head; "God bless him, and make him a comfort to you!" "I thank your reverence," faid she, " and fay amen to that fweet prayer.

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"Well, fir, as I was telling you, we did very well all the time my late lord lived; but when my young lord came, the times were altered.—He has a great estate in England, and never comes down to this country as his father did; for that we never faw him: and his agent is always pressing for money, and distraining the moment it is due; for he fays it is my lord's order, and he will not fuffer any of his tenants to be a farthing in arrear. The lands too are greatly advanced fince the young lord's time; and fo it happened fome years ago, after two very bad harvetts, that my poor husband was not able to pay at the time appointed; and the agent threatening immediately to distrain, he had recourse to Mr. Muckworm, who, after he figned some papers, advanced him twenty guineas, with which he paid

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his rent. Well, fir, this did for that time: but the next year he was again deficient; and Mr. Muckworm came upon him too for his debt, which by some means or other he contrived to make thirty pounds; and when my poor husband could not pay it, he arrested him and fent him to gaol. Meantime the agent ejected us for my lord, and feized on all our things, which were fold to pay his rent, and did not fetch more than would do it, though they cost four times as much. My poor fon, who with his wife lived with us, when he faw his father in gaol, and the farm gone, determined to go to fea, and try if he could earn any thing to relieve him. He carried his wife and child home to her father and mother, and entered on board a king's ship, where he had not been three months till he was killed in an engagement with the French. His poor wife, who was with child when he left her, took his death fo much to heart that it hastened her labour, and the and her infant expired together. .

"My poor husband lay two years in Denbigh gaol: at last some kind-hearted person told Sir Thomas Spendall of our distresses, and that generous and charitable gentleman sent for me; and when he heard the whole account, and enquired into its truth, he not only released my husband out of prison, but promised to set him up in a little farm under himsels; and had God spared my poor Edward, he certainly would have done so, for he never breaks his word. But it did not please the Almighty that I should be so happy; for the cold and damps of the prison had so broke my poor husband's health, that he died of the

rheumatism in less than half a year.

"However, Sir Thomas did not leave me in my distress; he gave me this little cottage, with a garden, and grass plat for my cow, rent free;

—and, God bless him! he gave me ten guineas to buy myself necessaries, and said I never should want that sum every year; and indeed he is as

good as his word, and better too."

"Where is Sir Thomas now?" faid Mr. Evans. "Indeed I don't know, fir," faid the poor woman, "but I believe he is gone to London; it is but last week he went from his house in this neighbourhood." "I am forry he is gone, said Evans: "I would walk fifty miles to kiss the hand that could do such noble things." "Oh, sir," replied she, "he is the best natured man in the world. There would not be an aching heart in Wales, if he could help it."

Evans now thanked the good woman for her story, which, he said, was extremely affecting; but he hoped to live to see the day when her little grandson would repay her trouble, and be a new spring of comfort to her. And now expressing a desire to sleep, she shewed him into a little inner apartment, where was a bedstead with some fresh straw and clean blankets, and where our worthy curate enjoyed a sweeter and more prosound repose than was perhaps experienced on the softest down in any palace in Europe strains.

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## CHAP. XVII.

A HE morning now glittered through the hedges, on whose naked boughs the night had shed her tears, which the keen air had frozen into gems more pure and transparent than ever adorned the treffes of an Indian queen. Thoufands of larks now gathered near the doors, where the found of the early flail gave them' hopes of a breakfast. Now Goody Maurice fwept her cleanly cottage, and heaped her hofpitable hearth with kindled peats; the smoke of which rose through her humble thatch, till, meeting with the new-rifen fun, it ascended in a golden column to the cloudless skies, and, like the pious offering of Abel, seemed to be a facrifice acceptable to heaven. Now had the fweetbreathed cow yielded her treasure of morning's milk; whilft her new companion Blackbird, by the attention of little Johnny, was regaling on fome clover hay, collected for her winter's food. And now had little Johnny himself well greafed the parfon's boots, who was still fnoring in his first nap, and then had gone to wash his face and comb his hair against his reverence arose—which probably would not have been for an hour to come, had not the cock, who had been long in vain foliciting the favour of one of his

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his strutting dames, at length succeeded; when mounting on the thatch, exactly over Evans's head, he clapped his wings and proclaimed his

triumph aloud.

This clarion waked him; and, furprised to see the day fo far advanced, he hastily arose, convinced by experience, how refreshing is the bed of straw, and how sweet the slumbers of the labouring man. Well was he pleafed, as he walked through the outer room, to fee the attention of his kind hostefs, who had spread her little table as the night before, and prepared new milk and a hot oat-cake for his breakfast. Advancing to the door, he faw a bright and cloudless sky, and, clearing his voice, as was his cuftom in a morning, he made the woods re-echo with a loud hem. "God blefs your reverence!" faid goody Maurice, who now came forward from the cow-house; " I see your reverence has got good lungs, and I hope will live this many a year. How did your reverence fleep?" faid she; " I fear you found the straw too hard?" " Not at all, dame," faid Evans: "I never flept better in my life, nor ever had more thorough fatisfaction in my entertainment." " It is your goodness, fir, that says so," replied the old woman, " for I am fure it is what your reverence is not accustomed to; but will your reverence walk in and take some breakfast?" "Yes, my good woman, and thank you heartily." And now, little Johnny with clean hands and face attending with his boots, he feemed greatly pleafed with his neatness and the innocence of his looks. During breakfast he asked him many questions in his catechism, and about other fuch matters as he might be supposed to know; to all which he answered to his fatisfactio no

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tion, which greatly delighted Evans, and did not fail to draw from him much commendation.

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And now having finished his meal, and Blackbird being ready, he went to mount; but he first took out half-a-crown to reward the trouble of his kind landlady: but great was his aftonishment when the peremptorily refused to take a farthing.—She faid the bounty of Sir Thomas had given her plenty, and God forbid the thould. make a traffic of it, or take fuch a fum for the pitiful morfel that his reverence had been to good as to accept! "Good woman," faid Evans, "I know not which to admire most, your virtue or your good manners; but I know they are both fuch as may often put the highest stations to the blush."-Then calling little Johnny, he forced the half-crown into his hand; and telling them both who he was, and where he lived, he gave them an invitation to his house, and rode away.

All the way as he went he amused himself with contrasting his reception at Muckworm's and the poor widow's. This led him into many refined speculations on the nature of the human heart; its natural tendency to virtue, and the power of gold to corrupt it: though in the instance of Sir Thomas he had the most fatisfactoly proof that there were some hearts so pure that iches could not corrupt them. With this pleafng contemplation did he folace himself till he peheld at a distance the delightful prospect of the evening fun gliftening on his windows; and hohell Blackbird quickening his pace, and fetting pp a loud whinny, he foon faw Ned (who had een long expecting him) running to meet him, nd with his usual cheerful and roly countenance velcome him home; where he found a blazing fire,

fire, a comfortable meal, and a good-humoured

wife ready to receive him.

To those who live in splendid palaces, and are occupied in the business of the great world, the foothing transports of domestic happiness are fel-Their vitiated appetites, fated by dom known. perpetual indulgence, can taste no pleasures but what intoxicate, and therefore cannot relish the fimple draught drawn from the pure fountain of connubial blifs, whose unfullied spring flows with ever new delight for those who can enjoy it.-Such therefore cannot conceive the fatisfaction which now glowed in the countenances of this happy and united little family on its head's return, nor what an addition of relish the absence even of one day gives to fuch a meeting. have viewed the placid face of Evans as he ate his mutton, and the lively eye with which he beheld his amber ale sparkling in the glass, one would have imagined he had returned to his little family full freighted with fome news of their advancement, fome important fuccess that was to establish them in future beyond the reach of fortune. Nor, when he told them his reception with Muckworm, did it in the least abate their enjoyment, but rather added to it; for they made it a subject of much laughter all the evening, and drew from it besides this comfortable conclusion, that happiness did not lie in wealth; and that their own fituation, humble as it was, was beyond all comparison more eligible than his. They did not withhold due praise from the behaviour of the poor widow, to whom Mrs. Evans declared herself infinitely obliged, and that she would never be at rest till she found out some way of repaying her kindness.

Ned urged his father to take home the little boy, and teach him to read and write, in doing

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which he promifed to affift him; and that he might be put to do fuch work in the garden as was fuited to his strength and years, where also he might learn the whole art of common gardening, which would be a help to them, and might turn out of the greatest advantage to the Mrs. Evans did not at all object to this little addition to their houshold, but seemed extremely defirous to do whatever lay in her power both for the child and the old woman: and the good curate faid he would think of it; but for the present there was no hurry, as the boy was very young; and befides, he thought it improper to do any thing without first asking permistion of Sir Thomas, who had been extremely generous to them, and might consider it impertinent in him to interfere with any body whom he had taken under his protection:-but he declared his resolution to wait upon Sir Thomas as foon as he returned to the country, for he longed to be acquainted with a gentleman of whose heart and whose humanity he had conceived the highest opinion. Mrs. Evans and Ned acquiesced in this determination, the propriety of which struck them now, though in the warmth of their gratitude they had overlooked it before.

Thus did our good curate conclude his fruitless embassy to Mr. Muckworm. Perhaps it may be thought an argument of his simplicity ever to have undertaken it, and I will not deny but it does look as if he was not thoroughly acquainted with the manners of the modern world: but that worthy man judged of other men's hearts by his own; and feeling in himself how infinitely it would have rejoiced him to have such an opportunity of obliging an old friend,

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we may excuse his error in supposing it would be equally agreeable to Mr. Muckworm. As it was, though greatly disappointed, yet he was not dejected, but resolved to trust to Providence and time for some fortunate event in Ned's sayour, and to divert him at home as much as possible, by engaging him in some employment that might at once afford amusement to the mind and

exercise to the body.

An accident happened about this time which greatly forwarded this plan. Mr. Watkin had gone one morning to a fair, nine or ten miles from his own house. It has been before obferved, that he was of a morose disposition, and though in very affluent circumstances, yet so extremely narrow as to allow himself little more than the bare necessaries of life: he was besides excessively proud, and too apt to assume a superiority over his neighbours, who, excepting the article of cash, were in every other respect his equals. This conduct created him many enemies, and prevented his having any friends: and accordingly at this fair he got into a dispute with a young fellow about buying some cattle, in which he gave the young man some harsh language, which provoked him to retaliate:from words it came to blows; and as he had nobody to espouse his cause, or rescue him from his antagonist, he got a most severe beating, without being either pitied or relieved. At last the young fellow quitted him, moved either by returning pity, or fearing he had given a blow too much, for the last stroke had laid him fenseless on the ground; and some people more humane than the rest, coming by at that time, lad him in a cart, and carried him home to his own house, in a very doubtful situation as to life

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His poor wife and daughter, who wanted neither duty nor affection, forgot all that was difagreeable in his manners when they faw him in distress, and, fancying him already dead, vented their forrow in shrieks and tears. Having washed away the blood and dirt with which his face was clotted; they put him into bed, unable to fpeak, and feemingly almost fenfeles;—his eyes were fo fwelled and black, that they could not tell whether he would ever fee again or not; and the only figns of life he gave were, that he still breathed, and now and then drank a little water which they put to his lips. In this distressing fituation they fent for Mr. Evans, who was the usual refuge of all his parishioners when any calamity befel them; and that good man, attended by Ned, went immediately to the house, to give them what comfort and what affistance he could. By his advice they dispatched a messenger for Doctor Jones; and having fat awhile with Mrs. Watkin, he returned home, leaving Ned to take care of the women, and to be otherwise affifting as far as was in his power.

This amiable young man never was so happy as when employed in any work of kindness or good nature; he soothed the terrors of Mrs. Watkin, by affuring her that her husband had received no material injury, and that his apparent insensibility probably arose from fatigue, after an unusual exertion of passion, added to his bruises, and perhaps to his having taken a cup of ale too much; for his usual abstinence was so great, that a very small quantity of liquor might affect him. He summoned all his cheerfulness (of which indeed till lately he had a very large stock) to entertain them; and in this he succeeded so well, that Miss Watkin at least thought

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it one of the pleafantest evenings she had passed for a great while; and indeed an indifferent spectator might have discovered that that poor girl was all the while drinking delicious poison from the eyes of Ned, which were intending to beam nothing but good nature, and which were wholly unconscious of the mischief they were doing; for poor Ned's heart was already struck by the divine Cecilia, and was fo faturated with love that it was incapable of imbibing more from any object whatfoever. As vanity too had no share in his composition, the gentle Harriet might long have gazed on him, without awakenings fuspicion that she viewed him with any other eyes but those of friendship;—the poor girl did not even know it herself; but while she was doting on his beauty, she fancied she was admiring only his wit, his courage, his virtue, and his good nature. 'Tis thus that love infinuates himself into the heart—the subtle deceiver alfumes some flattering disguise to recommend himself so our notice; we admit him into our bosoms under the name of honour, generosity, friendship, or some other splendid appellation, which fooths our vanity, and reconciles us to our new guest. But soon we lament our caly faith—the false intruder sooths no more—he laps our fenfes, undermines our reason, wrings our heart; he becomes the tyrant, and, alas! too often, the destroyer of our fouls: Oh fly then, ye incautious fair! fly, fly whilst yet you may! -listen not to his syren song; shun, shun his first approach,-lest, like the dreadful whirlpool of Maelstrom, you play round him for a time in circles, till, by infensible though sure degrees, you are drawn into his irrefultible vortex, and Iwallowed up for ever.

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It now grew very late, and, neither the doctor nor the messenger returning, Ned was shewn to his apartment, where we will leave him to his repose, and to those happy dreams which sometimes are indulged to innocent and faithful lovers. Mrs. Watkin sat up with her husband, and the poor Harriet retired to her bed, where she slept but little, and began to feel how dangerous a lodger she had admitted into her breast.

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# CHAP. XVIII.

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oner state of the contract of the same a core follows brace. OCTOR Jones made his appearance in the morning, and was immediately conducted to Mr. Watkin's apartment. That poor man had recovered his fenses and the use of his tongue, but was so fore from his bruises that he was unable to move without pain. The doctor examined the wounds and cuts he had received; but not finding any fracture or external bruile that was alarming, he quieted the fears of the family in that respect. He observed, however, some feverish symptoms in Mr. Watkin; and in relating the circumstances of what had befallen kim, he had been roused anew into so violent a passion that he thought it necessary to warn Mrs. Watkin on that head; and, as there was reason to aprehend he might have a fever, that he should be kept as composed as possible.

When Mr. Watkin was informed that Ned Evans was in the house, he desired to see him; when, thanking him for the kindness of his visit, he requested that he would stay there for a sew days and superintend the management of his business, which Ned promised to do in the best manner he was able; and thus the tyrant Love was contriving to rivet the chains which he had forged for the heart of poor Harriet. That innocent girl was rejoiced when she heard of the invitation, and thought of nothing but the happiness she should enjoy in seeing the be-

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loved of her foul every hour of the day. Mrs. Watkin too was pleased, for she loved Ned with an unaffected friendship; and though she did not dream of her daughter's attachment, yet it is more than probable that, had she known it,

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The delighted Harriet fat down to breakfast with unufual vivacity; yet before that meal was over did cruel Love introduce a new fiend, his never-failing companion, into her gentle heart. This fiend was Jealoufy. Who that has ever felt love, is ignorant of this detefted name? Doctor Jones seeing Ned at breakfast, very naturally enquired if he had heard from Miss Cecilia? At the name of Cecilia a deep blush suffused the artless youth's cheeks-and, with a figh that could not be suppressed, he replied, they had received no word as yet. As Eve when she had eaten the forbidden fruit became instantly quick-sighted to discern evil as well as good, so did love open the eyes of the innocent and unsuspecting Harriet, and in one moment discovered to her the fatal truth that Ned's heart was already engaged, and by whom.

The friendship and admiration with which she had so lately and so sincerely beheld the charming Cecilia, were in one moment blasted to the roots; and the baneful passion of envy rising in that bosom which had ever hitherto been serene, resembled those pestilential winds, which are said to be formed in the deserts of Arabia, and which, passing over the cultivated fields, deface in an instant all the beauties of nature. Oh Love! thou who art called the offspring of heaven—the soother and resiner of the human soul! surely thou returneds to thy native skies when thy first possessors lost their innocence; and he who now usurps thy name is one

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of those deceitful fiends to whom their fatal transgression first gave admission—else why should you torment? or why be accompanied with all those pangs and forrows which statter al

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The fever which the doctor expected foon made its appearance, and Mr. Watkin was for near three weeks closely confined: at one time indeed there were great apprehensions for his life; but the strength of his constitution got the better of his difease, and at the end of the time above mentioned he was able to walk about. During all this time Ned staid at his house, and only went home now and then for an hour or fo to fee his father and mother. Mrs. Watkin had been as attentive to him as if he had been the first personage in the country; it need not be doubted but that Harrier, who loved him with all her foul, would go hand in hand with her mother in thewing him every kindness. And indeed the indefatigable attention that he bestowed on Mr. Watkin's affairs demanded this respect, exclusive of his native amiableness, which won it irrefillibly from all hearts. So that we cannot blame Miss Watkin, nor think her the least deficient in delicacy, if hers felt the impression so natural to her sex and years; but rather lament that there should be any impediment likely to prevent her meeting that return which it is but justice to say she every day deferved. The poor girl herfelf was not infenfible of this impediment; yet would she sometimes indulge the hope that the lovely object of his affections was of a rank too high for him to aspire to with any prospect of success-and in this hope the was not deceived; -and then the flattered herself that the fidelity of her own attachment would at last meet its reward, especivile

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ally as it was more than probable his father and mother would be her friends, fince they always expressed for her the warmest affection, and they well knew how advantageous her alliance would be in point of interest. Indeed this generous girl valued the prospect of her fortune for nothing fo much as the use it might be of to Ned, on whom she would gladly confer the Indies if the had them to bestow. She did not doubt either of getting her own father to defire this union, for he had conceived as warm an affection for Ned as it was possible for him to have for any body befides himself; and he was so well fatisfied with his care during his illness, that he declared if Mr. Evans would take a farm for his fon, he would immediately advance him money to flock it, and only require common interest; which was a great deal from one of his disposition, who literally loved money better. than he did himself.

All these favourable prospects soothed Miss Watkin into some hopes of success, which were the more reasonable, as it was now near fix weeks fince Lady Cecilia had left Mr. Evans, and in all that time they had not received the least account from her; and indeed the Evans's themselves began to think that, like other great: folk, she had forgot her country acquaintance, and that the memory of the Welch cottage was lost in the splendour of her father's palace. But Ned would never give into this suspicion; his terrors were, that she had met with some new disaster, or that she was dead; for he said he would pawn his foul upon it, that she would not live and be well, and neglect them altogether. In this fentiment he was not mistaken; for she was of a mind infinitely too noble to forget her triends because they were her inferiors—of a

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heart infinitely too just to forget the obligations which she owed to the gallant and the tender Edward. The truth is, that when she arrived in Dublin, she found her father in a situation that absorbed all her attention. It has been before observed, that Lord Ravensdale was in the gout when Lady Cecilia left her aunt, Lady

Elizabeth Belmont.

The reader is already acquainted with the unfortunate interruption to her journey; and as Lady Elizabeth had written to her brother by her niece, his lordship had not received that letter, and consequently knew nothing of Lady Cecilia's having quitted London. Her ladyship's severe illness in Wales, occasioned by her terror, and her subsequent desire to be unknown, prevented her from writing, thinking every day to go over herself; but Lady Elizabeth Belmont, wondering at not hearing from Ireland, wrote again to Lord Ravensdale by post, and enclosed a letter in it for Lady Cecilia, which was the first intelligence he had received of her having quitted London; and the agony this threw him into, of not knowing what was become of her, threw the gout into his head, and put his life in the most imminent danger. Such was his situation when Lady Cecilia arrived; and as at that time he was not capable of feeing her, or of knowing her if he had feen her, the affliction of Lady Cecilia was inexpressible, aggravated as it must be by the reslection how great a share she herself had in his illness. At last it pleased Heaven to abate his disorder, and the fight of Lady Cecilia herfelf perfected the cure; for no parent ever loved his children better than Lord Ravensdale, and his lovely daughter was his peculiar care. The joy he felt in folding her again to his bosom distipated all remaills

mains of his complaint, and foothed the forrow with which he heard of the death of his amiable friend Mrs. Melville; and he expressed the utmost gratitude for the Evans's, particularly for Ned, whose gallantry he was determined to reward.

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It was a few days after Ned had returned home to his father's, and that Mr. Watkin was entirely restored to his usual health, that our venerable curate was confulting with his fon on the subject of the farm which Watkin had suggested; and the propriety of being obliged to him for the sum necessary to stock it. Ned expressed a horror of beginning the world with a debt, which he faid would encumber his spirits, and be a clog on all his operations. And Mr. Evans highly applauded his prudence, and the delicacy of his feeling on that head. "He who runs in debt," faid he, " parts with just fo much of his liberty and peace of mind as he borrows, and must for ever feel inferior to his creditor till he is paid: whereas he who owes nothing is always independent, and, though ever so poor, must feel and rejoice in the dignity of his fituation. Yet, my dear boy," continued he, "there are sometimes occasions upon which a man may contract a debt without any imputation on his prudence, or danger in its confequence; and I think this is one of them: wherefore, if you wish to try your hand in the farming bufiness, you may begin with a small one, which will not require much to fet it up, and I shall take care that what you may want from Mr. Watkin shall not much encumber you."

Ned acknowledged with all gratitude the generolity and affection of his father; but abloquitely refused his bearing any part of the burthen.

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then, or joining in the fecurity. "God knows," faid he, " how I might fucceed; and if I come to any loss, how much will it be imbittered by involving you!" It is probable indeed, had Ned engaged in farming, and accepted Mr. Watkin's offer, that neither he nor his father would have come to any loss; for his prudence, activity, and skill, were equal to any thing that he should un-But fortune had a different scene of life in view for him, which was more adapted to his genius and inclinations; for a day or two after this, as they were fitting at breakfast, Morgan came into the room in a great hurry, and told Mr. Evans that there was a gentleman in a post-chaife at the gate who wanted to speak to him, but that he faid he had no time to alight. When he went out to the chaife, the gentleman asked him if he was acquainted with the Earl of Ravensdale? He assured him he had never heard of that nobleman. " Are you then the reverend Mr. Evans of Llanrhwscoedd?" He anfwered, that was indeed his defignation. "Then, Sir," faid the gentleman, "I have orders from his lordship to deliver this packet to you (handing a large bundle out of the chaife) and I fuppole the contents will explain themselves." Mr. Evans then pressed the gentleman to alight and take some refreshment; but he faid he could not possibly wait, for he must be in Loudon the sollowing day:—so wishing him a good morning he drove off.

Mr. Evans now returned into the house bearing the bundle in his hand; which when Mrs. Evans saw, "I will lay my mode cloak to a brass pin," said she, "that here is some news from Miss Cecilia." "I assure you," replied her husband, "this packet comes from an Earl; but what the contents are I cannot say:" "Open

it and see," faid she. Ned, who was all breathless expectation, cut the string which tied it, when out came—nothing but another bundle within the former. When this was opened, the first things that presented themselves were three letters; one in a man's hand to Mr. Evans; another in a lady's, directed to him also; and a third in the first hand, larger than the two former, directed to Ned.

The lady's letter was first opened, which con-

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" Dublin, Feb. 8th, 1780.

## " MY DEAR AND VALUABLE FRIENDS,

"I fear you will begin to think that your ungrateful Cecilia has been base enough to forget the generous protection and kind hospitality which you afforded her in Wales. Yet can I assure you, that though my heart is not a rock, the impression of your kindness is more durably engraved on it, than it could be on any stone. Inscriptions on marble are essaced long before the marble itself is consumed, on which they are engraved; but my heart must perish before it can forget the friendship of my kind protectors.

When I arrived in Dublin, I found my father in such a situation as called for all my care and absorbed all other attention. For many days did I expect the most afflicting stroke with which Providence could have chastened me; but it has pleased Heaven to avert the blow, and to restore my father to his usual health. He writes himself by this conveyance, to express his gratitude to you both, and to Mr. Edward, for all your kindness to me; and I hope his manner of doing it will be agreeable. You will pardon me, my dear

dear friends, if I concealed from you before, the rank which my father holds in this kingdom. Titles oftener embarrass friendships than promote them; and if hiding my own was a deceit, it was the first and the last that I shall ever practise with you. I beg you will give the inclosed, with my best affection to Miss Watkin. I hope my dear Mrs. Evans will accept of the few things sent herewith as a token of friendship, and that you will both of you continue to think of me and love me.

"It would be unpardonable in me to conclude this letter, without offering my kindest and most grateful compliments to Mr. Edward, and hoping that we may all live to meet again,

I remain

Your much obliged

And fincerely affectionate

CECILIA RIVERS."

The Earl's letter to Mr. Evans, which was next opened, was as follows:

" Merrion Square, Feb. 8th, 1780.

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" REV. SIR,

expressing to you the grateful sense I entertain of your extreme civility and attention to my daughter, Lady Cecilia Rivers, during her residence at your house; and I congratulate you upon having a son, who; by his conduct to her ladyship in the hour of her distress, is an honour not only to you but to his country: I should not have been so long in making this acknowledgment, had I not been confined by a most severe illness,

illness, which had well nigh brought me to the grave; but from which I am now pretty well recovered. The first use I made of my returning health, was to wait upon his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of this kingdom, who has enabled me to present your son with a pair of colours in a regiment now raising here, and in which my second son is to have a company. I write to the young gentleman himself, and send him his commission enclosed, which I hope will be acceptable to you both.

"I take the liberty of enclosing to you a bank bill for one hundred guineas, which I entreat of you to accept, to reimburse you any extraordinary expence that you must have been at while my daughter was with you; and I conclude with affuring you that at all times it will give me the highest pleasure if I should be able in any way to promote either your interest or

your fon's.

" I remain, Sir,

With great gratitude and respect,
Your obliged and obedient servant,
RAVENSDALE."

Ned's letter was the next to be opened; when the first thing that presented itself was his commission, written on parchment, and already signed by his Majesty. Lord Ravensdale's words were as follow:

" Merrion Square, Feb. 8th, 1780.

" SIR,

"Your gallant and generous behaviour on, the unhappy occasion which first introduced my daughter, Lady Cecilia Rivers, to your acquaintance,

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ance, has laid me under so great an obligation, that I really want words to express my thanks, or the high fense I entertain of your merit. I should have acknowledged this sooner, but for a fevere illness from which I have but lately recovered, and that I wished my expressions of gratitude might be accompanied with fomething more substantial than mere words. I have therefore folicited, and been happy enough to obtain for you, from his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of this kingdom, a commission which has been figured by his Majesty, and which I send you enclosed, whereby you are appointed eldest ensign in a regiment now raifing for his service in this kingdom, and in the company of which my fon is to be the captain. I should not have taken this step without confulting you, only that the applications were fo numerous that there was no time to be loft; and when I confidered your spirit and your youth, I could not doubt but you would as gladly exert your courage in defence of your country, as you have already done in that of my daughter.

"The regiment is expected to be ordered to America in the summer. It will therefore be advisable for you to come over to this kingdom as soon after the receipt of this as may be convenient to you, and while you stay in it, I shall be most happy if you will consider my house as your home.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your much obliged and obedient fervant,
RAVENSDALE."

The surprise and transport of joy which now feized upon Edward, kept him litent for some time; yet were extremely visible in his whole frame.

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frame. His cheeks glowed with a deeper crimfon, and his eyes sparkled with unusual firenot unlike those of the generous steed, when he first hears the found of the trumpet; when with erected ears he foams upon the bit, and, pawing the ground, devours with his eye the space that separates him from the foe. Such were the first looks of the gallant Edward, when he found himself an officer; but soon the fost idea of the lovely Cecilia rofe in his imagination, when his corresponding features put on equal foftness, and the lightning of his eye melted into the fweet radiance of tenderness and love. His father watched the various turns of his countenance; he faw with pleasure the emotions of his foul; and, clasping him to his bosom with an embrace inexpressibly affectionate, he wished him joy of his promotion. Mrs. Evans too joined in the congratulation; yet she could not suppress a rifing tear, which infenfibly dropped upon her cheek, when she reflected how soon he was to be torn from her, to what dangers he was to be exposed, and how many dreadful chances there were that she should never behold him more.

We may indulge the mother in these tender anxieties, which are natural to her sex, and suitable to her character: but the generous spirit of the curate disdained these apprehensions, and he heartily and sincerely rejoiced in the new prospect that was opened to his son, and in the glory with which his fond imagination already saw him covered. And now their first transports being over, they resumed tranquillity enough to examine the other contents of the bundle:—and these were found to be two pieces of the finest Irish linen; two of damask table linen; twenty-two yards of a rich and grave-coloured silk for a gown and petticoat, and six-

teen yards for a gown of the most beautiful Irish tabbinet. These presents gave great satisfaction to Mrs. Evans, who said, when she had done examining them, that she had always been of opinion, from the first view she had had of her, that Lady Cecilia was a woman of the highest distinction. Mr. Evans joined in the eulogium on her ladyship, and in extolling the magnisheent manner in which Lotd Ravensdale had rewarded them; and Ned took occasion to remind them, that it had been ever his opinion that Lady Cecilia would not forget them,

And now Morgan was dispatched to ask Miss Watkin to tea, that she might share in the general joy; and to carry to her the letter which was enclosed for her; and which they afterwards found was a letter of thanks for her attentions from Lady Cecilia, and contained a present of a very rich and valuable diamond

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# CHAP. XIX.

HE Evans's had hardly done dinner when Miss Watkin made her appearance, so impatient was she to know the particulars of their news She brought her diamond from Lady Cecilia. pin with her, which was extremely rich and elegant, and which had she received a week before, she would have valued ten times more for the fake of the bestower, than for the intrinsic worth of the jewel. Yet she derived some hope from the elevated rank of the lady, which was now ascertained; but when she heard of the commission, and the invitation to Lord Ravensdale's, a fudden paleness overspread her countenance; and if there had not happened to be a glass of water standing on a table, which she drank off, fhe would probably have fainted. She mustered up resolution enough, however, to wish Ned joy of his commission; but could not suppress her tears when the heard of his being ordered to America, and that he intended to go to Ireland in a week or ten days. What passed in her heart it is not easy to describe, nor can be conceived by any but those who have tenderly loved; it may be compared to the fenlation of ice freezing all the powers of the foul, whilst hope, which had been lately planted there, died away to the roots, and all its sweet blossoms withered away for ever.

Evans and Ned imputed her agitation to the

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terrors of friendship for the dangers he was to undergo; but Mrs. Evans was not fo deceivedthe clearly faw the real cause; she saw and pitied-for-nothing could have been more agreeable to her than that alliance, which would not only have been an ample provision for Ned, but would have kept him at home and in fafety. And indeed if her wishes were to determine, the would gladly have returned the commission, and kept her fon. But this she knew to be impossible—she knew full well the state of Ned's heart, which this commission flattered; and were his love out of the question, she knew his passion for glory would never suffer him to forego a profession which it had been the height of his ambition to aspire to; and she lenew also that her husband would be of the same sentiments. So that pity was all the confolation she could give to poor Harriet, and this she did give her from the bottom of her foul. Indeed she foon afterwards took her up to her own bedchamber under some pretence, where she gave her an opportunity to unbosom herself, and where that poor girl had the consolation to find in her all the tenderness of a mother, and the fidelity of a friend. This foothed her fo much as to enable her to return to the parlour, and to pais the evening without in the least awakening the suspicion of Mr. Evans or his son. And indeed from this evening Mrs. Evans did really look upon her with the affection of a mother, not thinking it at all improbable but that, if Edward lived, the might one day become to; for the confidered his passion for Lady Cecilia as quite romantic, and that there was not the fmallest probability of ever being successful: and Mr. Evans himself coincided with her in this opinion; as he did also in his good withes for Miss Watkin, ın-

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Watkin, when his wife afterwards apprifed him of the truth: so that this poor girl found friends and advocates where she most desired them; and was restored, if not to the sweetness of hope, at least to some degree of complacency and tranquility of mind. Her regret indeed for his absence, and her terrors for the dangers to which he must be exposed, could not be alleviated except by the consciousness how many partners she had in these anxieties; for there was not one of Ned's acquaintance who was not solicitous for his welfare.

And now as the time approached when Ned was to go, Mrs. Evans was hurried in preparing for his departure. The two pieces of Irish linen which Lady Cecilia fent her, she cut up into shirts for him, and poor Miss Watkin asfisted in the making them: this was a pleasant office to her, and would have recommended them perhaps to Ned, if the confideration of their being Lady Cecilia's present had not already stamped a value on them that could receive no addition. All his friends in the neighbourhood came to congratulate him on his advancement, and to take their leave; and he spent several days in returning these affectionate visits, and in giving and receiving afforances of unalterable friendship.

On the evening before his departure, Mr. Evans had invited a few friends, and, to make it pass more easy and agreeably, Price was ordered to attend with his harp. Mr. Watkin, who was now quite recovered, with his wife and Harriet, were of the company. They danged from tea till supper; and though some hearts among them were certainly heavy, but it did not seem to affect their heels, which moved mimbly enough the whole evening. After sup-

per,

per, several jovial songs were sung, and, a large bowl of the best punch smoking on the table, all melancholy seemed banished. Some of the company knowing the excellence of Ned's singer on the harp, and how charmingly his voice suited with that instrument, requested him to play, and to accompany it. Though he sung in the most masterly manner, yet, contrary to the common custom of all who do, he seldom required a second bidding, but with the utmost readiness obliged the company. He took the harp, and, having put the strings into complete tune, began the sweet Scots air,

#### Farewell to Lochaber! and farewell my Jane!

Those who have any taste for music, and who have ever heard this charming air well sung, need not be told how powerful the impression is it leaves upon the heart. When he came to that pathetic close,

## May be to return to Lochaber no more!

the aptness of the words to his own situation, and the enchanting sweetness of his voice, overpowered poor Harriet, and she burst into tears. His mother, whose passions were also wound up, wanted only this to set hers a-slowing also, and she very opportunely kept poor Harriet company. Indeed Ned himself was the only person in the room unaffected, except Mr. Watkin, who, in the midst of the sweetest and most affecting part of the tune, was very calmly lighting his pipe at the candle; and hearing his daughter's voice, he thought she was joining in the song, and cried out, "That's a sweet note, Harriet, do give it us again." This mistake restored the springs

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spirits of the company; for Ned, not being able to resist the impulse of laughter, gave way to it, in which he was joined by the whole table except Mr. Watkin, who could not be prevailed

on either to laugh or cry.

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The remainder of the evening was spent agreeably on all sides till the hour of separation came. Ned led Miss Watkin to her horse; when listing her into her side saddle he gave her a parting kiss—the tender and unexpected salute thrilled to her singers ends, which were resting on his neck as he raised her on the horse, and which, by an involuntary compression, now strained him to her bosom; whilst her saltering voice could hardly articulate the words, "Dear Edward, farewell!" The darkness of the night bestriended her delicacy, and concealed those tears which now slowed in a torrent from her eyes, and from which they did not cease to flow till forrow and satigue at last closed them in sleep.

Ned now went into the stable, to see that the horses were all well fed; one of which had been borrowed for him from Mr. Watkin, that Mr. Evans might ride with him to Holy-head. Here he found David Morgan hard at work, preparing all things for the morning's journey. This poor lad, who had a fincere attachment to Ned, had determined in his own mind never to stay behind him after he had once gone away. He had not, however, mentioned this resolution to any body; but now finding Ned alone, he embraced this opportunity, and getting between him and the door, he begged of him not to go till he had granted him one request. Ned, not expecting any fuch matter, was furprifed what he could defire, and promised, if it was proper for him to do, he would gratify him. He then asked him to take him as his servant. Ned told

him

him he should be very glad to have him, but that he did not think his income would enable him to keep a fervant. Honest David replied, that if that was all his objection, he would make that matter easy; for he would go with him all the world over, and ferve him without fee or reward. Ned thanked him for his attachment, but blamed his imprudence; " for," faid he, " it may very possibly happen that it will not be in my power to support you."-" Master," faid David, " leave that to me; I will not ask any support from you; I defire only the honour to ferve you, and the comfort to be with you; for by---(Here he fwore an oath which I will not prefume to write) I never will stay in this country after you are out of it."—" Well but," faid Ned, " what will you do?"—" I will inlift," faid David, " in the fame regiment with you, and at once ferve both you and my king."—" I applaud your zeal and your friendship," said Ned; " and if you do, I will promife you all the favour that is in my power to shew you; neither will I accept your services for nothing, but recompense you as it may be in my power." David's joy ran over at his eyes; and this point being fettled, he went home to his father's to make known his refolution, and Ned returned into the house.

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# CHAP. XX.

AT length the morning dawned that was to separate Edward from the only home he ever remembered to have had, and from the arms of those tender parents who had hitherto held him in their fond embraces. Though his youthful bosom glowed with delight in the prospect of his new profession, and with the still more transporting hope of foon being in the presence of the beloved of his foul; yet he could not leave his little paternal dwelling, where the happy feafon of childhood was passed, nor the protection of those indulgent parents who had supplied all his wants and foothed all his cares, without being impressed with a tender forrow, which no prospects of pleasure could entirely dispel, and which would have been a defect in his heart if they could. His father and mother were justly entitled to his most ardent affection, and they fully possessed it. The very stones that formed their habitation, and the trees that sheltered it, were endeared to him by old acquaintance, and by their relation to them.—He role therefore this morning at the very first peeping of the dawn, and went into the garden to fee, for the last time, those scenes where he had so often asfisted his father in his delightful task, and which were indebted for most of their beauty to their united labours. Here he came to the leat which he had lately raifed end confecrated to the me-VOL. I. mory

mory of Lady Cecilia; and, cutting two fuckers, one from a white and the other from a purple lilac tree, he twisted them together, and planted them in a sequestered spot where he thought they would be most likely to thrive.

This was his last labour in the garden: his romantic imagination fancied these two suckers were emblems of Cecilia and himself-and he fondly wished that their affections might be twined together like the twigs he had just planted. He thought, if he ever lived to return, his first visit should be to these shrubs, and that from their fituation he would draw an omen of their future love. Poor youth! fuch are the superstitions to which love bends the strongest understandings, and such the delusions with which it alike flatters the hopes and entangles the hearts both of the simple and the wife! -As he returned to the feat, he was furprifed to fee at some distance a young woman advancing towards him. This was indeed Molly Price, the daughter of the poor harper; whose blooming cheeks and auburne locks had captivated fo many hearts among the neighbouring fwains (as we formerly mentioned), and who, alas! had been herfelf enthralled by the many graces of the manly Edward. Sorry am I to record, that this amiable youth was not in all things perfect; and that the passions of nature, which this poor girl's beauty was but too well catculated to enflame, had some months before been too violent for either his reason or religion to refrain, especially when the feebleness of the relistence feeined more like an invitation than a refufal.

This girl was however the only person with whom he had ever so transgressed; and never since the matchless charms of Cecilia had inspired his soul with the sublime transports of an honourable

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and chaste passion, did he suffer his thoughts to wander even for a moment from that pure object, or his heart to form a wish in which the severest virtue could find any thing to condemn. He met Molly therefore without embarrassment, and with that compassionate tenderness to which from him she was certainly entitled: her eyes discovered that she had been weeping, and he did not need her information to tell him it was for him. He made her therefore fit down; and in a long and pathetic harangue he lamented the fituation in which their mutual indifcretions had involved them, and which, he now learned, could not long be concealed from his father and

the public.

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During a conversation of near an hour, he faid every thing that reason, religion, virtue, and friendship could fuggest to afford her confolation: he promised, that though he could not dare to see his father if he should know his guilt, yet he would take care, when he was gone from his prefence, to confess it to him by letter, and to recommend her and the unfortunate infant that was to come into the world to his protection and forgiveness. He declared, that though he had made a firm resolution (which he trusted he should be able to keep) never to transgress so again, either with her or with any other woman, yet he should ever remember her with the truest kindness, and endeavour to supply her necessities, and those of her child, as far as he should be enabled to do. He then gave her five guineus as an earnest of future favours, which was almost five times as much as ever she had been militels of before, and which contributed as much as any thing he had faid to dry up her lears, and open her heart to confolation; and then, after an affectionate kiss, in which guilt bad per, Telled glorio & policy challer, rog had

had no share, he led her out of the garden, and

he went into the house.

The reader may wonder perhaps how Ned came to have so much money about him, at least to spare;—but he must remember that Lord Ravensdale had sent a bank-note for rool. to Mr. Evans, the whole of which that generous parent would have had him to take; but no entreaty, nor even command, could compel him to accept of more than half, which he said would be abundant for his necessities, especially as he had now an income superior to his father's. The good curate was therefore obliged to acquiesce (at least for that time), and had given him the day before sifty guineas prepara-

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tory to his journey to Ireland.

Mr. and Mrs. Evans were now rifen, and the breakfast things all laid upon the table, when Ned entered. His baggage had been entrusted to a carrier to take to the Head; and honest David Morgan, with a knapfack on his back and an oaken stick in his hand, was ready with a cheerful heart, and as cheerful a countenance, to follow his young master to the end of the world. Though David had a father and mother and even a mistress to forfake, as well as Edward, all of whom he had taken leave of that morning, yet the glory of being a foldier, and the pleasure of attending Ned, had banished all forrow from his heart, which indeed was not formed to be the relidence of much thought or melancholy; and he looked forward to his campaigns in America, with as much eagerness as ever he had done to a fox-chafe or a hadgerhunt: yet he did not want good-nature; but the builte of war has charms for all young fellows of spirit; and he longed to match old Price the harper, whose glorious achievements had been

fet to music, and rewarded by a pension of al-

most five pounds a year.

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The good curate had ordered him a tankard of the best ale, and the remains of a piece of cold roast beef, on which he was regaling in the kitchen; and so well was he pleased with him for his attachment to Ned, that he had replenished his pocket with a guinea, which honest David accepted with great pleasure, as an omen of the immense wealth he should acquire by plundering the rabala. Of the torse free greatern

Meanwhile Ned finished his last meal in the parlour, whilst the streaming eyes of Mrs. Evans sed on him with lingering looks, and her trembling hands were hardly able to fill out his tea. The horses were now ready, and the trying moment now came that was to tear him from her arms. I am not able to describe the unutterable tenderness with which she folded him to her bosom, nor the devotion with which she raised her trembling eyes to Heaven, when, grasping his hand in hers, and dropping on her knees, she poured out her soul in prayer, be-

feeching God to bless and protect him.

If any one who may chance to read these pages shall know what it is to have had an only child—to have reared that child upon her breast, and seen him advance in every grace both of mind and body till he attained the bloom of opening manhood;—if at that season she has lost him, or been obliged to part with him to a remote country, where dangers and difficulties were to surround him, and where a thousand chances might arise to prevent her ever meeting him again—such an one, and such only can conceive what this poor woman self on this occasion. Her husband was the first to comfort her: he raised her from her knees; he commended her

her piety and her prayer; he exhorted her to have confidence in God, which he faid was the way to obtain what we asked; and he ventured to predict, from an unaccountable gleam of comfort which gladdened his own heart, that their prayers were heard, and that they would all

meet again.

Poor Ned himself had not a very soldier-like appearance—but, mingled his tears with hers, and joining with his father in his consolations, he gave her a last kifs, and hastened to his horse, to quit a scene which was become more affecting than he could bear. The good curate hastened too; and Morgan assisting him on his horse, they both rode off together. When they had gone about half a quarter of a mile, they came to a turning on the road, which afforded the last view of the parson's little dwelling. Here Ned stopped his horse (whilst his father continued to ride on), to contemplate for a moment the little habitation, and take a last look of scenes so long endeared to him, and which perhaps he should never see again. He was viewing the two old oaks that stood before the house, and the window of the parlour which appeared between them, when he faw his poor mother standing near them, and following with her eyes his last footsteps. He could not resist the inclination, which this tenderness inspired, to speak one word of comfort more to her, and throw himself once more upon her bosom. rode back; he alighted—he hung for a minute on her neck; she strained him once more to her heart; once more he quitted her embrace; he mounted his horse again—and was out of fight in a moment. He foon came up with his father, who was jogging on in a very reverend trot, and so wrapped up in contemplations that he

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he had never missed him. Their conversation now took a livelier turn, which the fineness of the day and the beauty of the country inspired. The fragrance of the air and the exercise of the ride exhibitant their spirits; and still as their distance from home increased, Ned sound the weight of parting from it diminish, till at last he resumed his usual gaiety. The new prospects which were opening to him in life contributed to this, and to fill his breast with hope, which is the parent of joy; and which the good-natured curate was so far from repressing, that he indulged in it himself, and pro-

moted the fensation of it in his fon.

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Their journey passed on with pleasure and satisfaction, and in the evening they arrived in fafety at the Head, where they learned that the packet was not to fail till about eleven o'clock the next day. This evening therefore they determined to pass with as much cheerfulness as they could, and for that purpose ordered a good. supper, and a bottle of the best wine. Over this liquor they fat up till it was pretty late; and their conversation turned upon the entrance of young men into life, and particularly in that profession in which Ned was now engaged. I will not attempt to give a detail of this converlation, though he that had the happiness to hear it made a vow never to forget it. But the precepts it inculcated were fo opposite to the practice of most of the young officers with whom I have been acquainted, that I am afraid, if I was to relate it, it might bring my friend Evans into contempt with that respectable corps, or at least discredit principles which were known to have relided in the breast of a Welch curate, and which nevertheless would have done honour to the heart of the ablest veteran in Europe. did

did not indeed dwell much upon religion in this conversation, as might perhaps have been expected from one of his cloth. But the reason was not because he thought religion unessential to the military character, but because he knew Ned to be so well grounded in it already, as to prefer his faith even to his commission, and that he had nothing new to learn on the subject; but what he chiefly descanted on to-night was honour, which he had often heard called the religion of a foldier, and indeed the only religion which a man of fense should profess. The futility of this pernicious fentiment he fully exposed, by shewing that honour was never genuine when separated from religion; and that it was in fact but a beautiful fruit engrafted on that frem. "Let us part it for a moment," faid he, " from this great root whence every thing virtuous must spring, and behold what heterogeneous monfters it will produce! A man of honour without religion, may ruin himfelf and his innocent children in an avaricious attempt to bring that same ruin upon another. A man of honour, without religion, may defraud an industrious tradesman of a just demand, and involve his poor family in diffrefs, to pay a debt of honour, as it is emphatically called, to a nobleman who does not want it, or to a sharper who perhaps won it unfairly—and this he must do, if he is unable to pay both debts, and is defirous of still maintaining the reputation of honour. A man of honour, without religion, may take advantage of the artlefs fimplicity of some unsuspecting girl, to rob her of that honour which he prizes fo much himself; and afterwards may run her father or her brother through the body, for prefuming to call his honour in question. A man of honour, without religion,

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As you religion, may traffic for a feat in parliament to keep him out of jail, and may succeed in a bargain for some venal borough; he may then declaim in that parliament against bribery and corruption, and fell the interests of his constituents, to a worthless minister, with as little ceremony

as he bought them.

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These and a thousand other characters such as these, are the daily product of what the world calls honour. But let not my dear boy mistake me, and think that I am decrying the noblest principle of the foul, or facrificing honour at the shrine of religion; -if bonour without religion is bad,-religion without honour is a thoufand times worfe: " Corruptio optimi est pessimà." Now, true religion being the best and most sacred thing on earth, the corruption of it is the worst of all corruptions. Accordingly the most flagitious characters that have ever appeared in the world, have been hypocrites; and the most enormous wickedness that ever disgraced mankind, or outraged the feelings of humanity, has been perpetrated under the name of religion:but it was religion divested of honour. Cromwell and his faints may ferve for a specimen of the one—The inquisition and the jesuits, the Sicilian vespers, the massacre of St. Bartholomew, nay the whole history of popery abounds with examples of the other. But true honour, and true religion, are not accountable for the corruptions which wicked men have introduced in either. These are harmonious principles, wedded together, and which cannot exist asunder. They are fweet concords, whose unison charms the foul, and makes it fit for heaven. As for you, my boy, I have no fear either for your honour or your faith. I have not taught

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you to place religion in abstract speculations, or in a fervile affent to unintelligible creeds-but in those substantial duties which the great Author of ours came into the world to preach and to practife, and which, if we would believe himfelf, is the only thing of worth in any religion. For what does he require of thee, O man! to abstain from evil; to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? But nothing shews more the necessity of religion to a man of true honour, than the opinion of the world concerning gratitude. Even in this profligate age, no man would be allowed to have honour, who could return an extraordinary kindness with scorn and contempt. Now God is the greatest benefactor that any man ever had, or ever can have. I never can believe therefore, that he who can be false to his God, will ever be true to his king or his country, to his mistress or his friend. And now, Ned, that I have named the word mistress, give me leave to point out to you the only rock on which I think your honour can ever be in danger. I know your attachment to Lady Cecilia Rivers; and I think, confidering your adventure with her, and some other circumstances that I shall not name, that it is more than possible she may incline to with you well. You are now going into her presence; and are invited even to dwell with her, by her father. But, Oh remember, Edward, what that father has done for you! and do not abuse his generous friendship, by seducing the affections of his child. You know the immense distance of your rank; and that if she could be weak enough to confent to marry you, the consequence would, to her, be nothing less than ruin.—Let your honour then be triumphant over your

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your passion, let the spirit of a soldier teach you to conquer, and let your first victory be over yourself. Leave siddlers and dancing-massers to abuse the hospitality of their patrons by robbing them of their daughters; but let my generous Edward scorn such unworthy actions—let him support the honour of an ancient Briton, and shew his noble friend that the barren wilds of Wales, and the humble cottages of its curates, may produce spirits worthy of happier climes, and of more exalted fortunes. Let him see that he has not misplaced his friendship, and that the last vice you can be guilty of is ingratitude."

Here Evans paused for a reply; -but Ned continued rapt in the profoundest meditation. "Speak to me, my child!" faid Evans again, " and pais me your word of honour not to attempt to feduce the affections of Lady Cecilia Rivers!"-" Seduce her affections! No, my father! (replied Ned) by Heaven I would not feduce her to be the monarch of the universe! You say you know my attachment to her: I avow it; and when I ceafe to be attached to her, I shall be attached to nothing upon earth. But calm your fears, either for her honour or for mine:-her mind is fo pure as to refift all corruption, and her understanding so clear that to circumvent it is impossible.—But know that, if it was not fo, your fon would fooner perish in the dust before he would hazard to offend her. You fay you think it possible she may incline to wish me well:—I am fure she does so; but in the light you feem to hint, I do not believe she thinks of Yet, Oh my father! pardon me if I must tell you, that if I thought it possible she should ever bend her thoughts to match herself with your poor Edward, I would embrace my happineis

happiness with ecstacy, and aspire to her arms, though the was feated on the throne. And where would be the dishonour in this? or where would be the ruin? It is true I am not richand it is true I am not a lord: but it is also true I am a gentleman, and that I have never done any thing to forfeit that character .- In that character therefore I shall ever think I have a right to push my fortune wherever I can find it; and after the charming lesson which you have read me this night on honour and religion, the music of which still tingles in my ears, my dear father! you must excuse my acting so inconsistent with both, as to make you a promise which I am fure I shall not be able to perform."-" Enough, my fon," faid Evans. " Enough, my dearest child! I will exact no promise, and A am fatisfied with your reasons for giving none. Go, my boy, go where fortune leads you !-Court her through the paths of honour, and may glory and fuccess attend you!"

The clock now ftruck two:-they rang the bell for the waiter. They were shewn to the fame apartment; and this being the last night in which perhaps they should ever be together, they refolved not to separate: they quickly undreffed, and lay down in the fame bed, where their innocent and peaceful minds were foon

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## CHAP, XXI. bakk teller

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The state of the state of the state of the state of Landy wor from the control of the control I HE morning was pretty far advanced before either of them awoke; the waiter came to fummon them to breakfast, and to inform them that the wind was fair. The captain of the packet had just called at the house, to acquaint the passengers he should fail in an hour. When they had finished their last meal together, Evans took Ned by the hand, and, looking on him with inexpreffible tendernels-" I had something to reveal to you, my dear boy !" faid he, " which may fome time or other be of confequence to you, though at present it can be of none. I will therefore suppress it now. But if ever we live to meet again, I will acquaint you with it; and in case it shall please God to take me from you, I shall take care to have it told you,—I know not what fortune may attend you-you may rife to honour and to fame; or you may fink under misfortune; and walk in the valley of death. In either case, my darling child! here is your confolation-here is a friend that will never forfake you; that will teach you to use prosperity with moderation, and to support adversity without being overwhelmed. Take it, my child-use itkeep it-confult it upon all occasions, and trust your father when he tells you, it has been his cordial through many afflictions." He then put into his hand a pocket edition of the Bible. "I accept

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accept your present, my father!" said Ned. " with thankfulness; and in this case I will make no fcruple of paffing you my most facred word of honour, that I will obey your injunctions. And now too, my father, I must tell you in my turn, that I also had a secret to reveal which yet at prefent I am obliged to suppress. Yet I will acquaint you with it by letter; and I make it my last request to you, that you will comply with my defire." "I know nothing, my child," faid Evans, "that you can demand of me, that I shall ever wish to refuse."-The captain of the packet now came to fummon Ned on board, which put a stop to all further explanation: what Evans had to reveal must remain in his own bosom till he chooses to tell it-at this time it could have been of no confequence to Edward, unless perhaps to afflict him, though indeed without reason. What Ned had to reveal to his father, was certainly his affair with Molly Price: but the piety of that ingenuous youth could not bear the presence of his father under the consciousness of guilt.

They now walked together to the vessel, and took their last leave upon the beach. They shook hands for the last time with the warmth of sincere affection, but without those tears which are the characteristics of semale.

partings.

Mr. Evans stood upon the beach till the packet got under weigh; he continued to gaze on her till she turned out of the harbour, and the intervening rocks concealed her from his view. He then returned to the inn; and having ordered his horse, and paid the bill, he set forward on his way home. He had not gone many miles before the weather be-

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gan to change. The wind, which had been fouth-east in the morning, now turned to the fouth-west, and brought with it heavy Iqualls of rain. His tears now rose for his fon, to whom this wind was adverfe, and he was often upon the point of returning to the Head, in hopes the packet would put back, and that he should again fold him in his arms. As he rode on, doubting in his mind, the comfortable little inn of Gwindu appeared, the landlady of which he was long acquainted with, and whose character and hospitality deservedly endeared her to all who travelled this road. Here therefore he determined to alight, and Mrs. Knowles herfelf met him at the gate. She received him with the cheerful welcome of genuine friendship, and her house being then full of company going to the Head, she conducted him to her own little parlour behind the bar; where he found an excellent fire, a neat room, and every thing elfe that could contribute to his comfortable entertainment. She now congratulated him on his fon's commission, which the had heard of foon after he got it; and when Mr. Evans expressed his anxiety to her for his fafety, as he had that morning failed for Ireland, the allayed his fears, by affuring him there had no accident happened to a packet within any body's recollection. " They are fuch excellent veffels," faid she, "and so well appointed both in failors and commanders; that though they fail in all weathers, they always come fafe. At prefent the wind is contrary, to be fure, but it is far from a florm; and it may be fair again before night, for nothing is more common. And fo, my

dear Sir," continued she, "repose yourself here in quiet; the company will foon fet forward to the Head, when you can have a room to yourfelf, and continue your journey in the morning." Mr. Evans thanked her for her kind invitation, but expressed his positive determination to go home that night at all events. "My poor wife," faid he, "is all alone, and stands in need of my company to relieve her forrow for parting with her fon."-" Well then," faid the, " if you are determined to go, I cannot help it: but I must insist on your obliging me in one thing. I have a chaife here of my fifter Jackson's at the Ferry, which I am obliged to fend home; and as the evening is still wet, I infist on your going in it at free cost (for it must go at any rate), and your horse may be tied behind it and follow after." This offer, so obliging and so convenient, was not to be refused: he therefore gladly accepted it; and then asking what was to pay for his dinner, she positively re-fused to take a farthing. The chaise being now ready, he got into it, after having kindly taken leave of Mrs. Knowles; and fully convinced in his own mind that there was not fix fuch mistresses of an inn in all the world.

When he got to Bangor Ferry, he gave the lad who drove him a shilling; and, mounting his own horse, continued his journey home. The evening had cleared up; and the night, which had now set in, seemed much better than there had been any reason to expect some time before. This eased his mind with regard to Edward, and enabled him to meet his wife with more cheerfulness than he otherwise could have done. He found that good woman just sitting

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down to her folitary meal, which was to ferve her both for dinner and supper; for she had long delayed dining, in hopes of the comfort of her husband's return. Were I to relate the tender meeting of this fond and faithful pair, I am afraid most married couples would fay it was unnatural-it was fo utterly unlike the generality of connubial meetings now-a-days. Yet their happiness was a little allayed, when they faw but two plates upon the table; they missed the third who added so much cheerfulness to their meals, and the thoughts of the absent filled both their eyes with tears. Just then Towser, who had been Ned's favourite dog, came wagging his tail to Evans, and put his foot upon his knee. " Poor fellow!" faid Evans, patting his head, and giving him a bone to pick, " I will be kind to you, Towser, for your master's sake. Mrs. Evans, whose eye was fixed on a little round hat which Ned used to wear, and which still hung upon the peg, from which she would not fuffer it to be removed, faid with a figh which came from the bottom of her foul, " Alas! my poor boy !—I shall never see you more!"—
"God forbid!" said Evans; "I trust we shall fpend many happy days together yet. Come, wife!" faid he, " uncork a bottle of wine. Sorrow, they fay, is dry-let us drink a bumper to Ned's health, and may we live to fee him a general officer!" "God grant that I may live to fee him at all!" faid she; " but I will pledge your toast. So she brought the wine, which her husband well knew her spirits required. He made her drink a bumper, and another to the back of it; and affected a cheerfulnefs which at that time he did not really posses, on purpose to alleviate the load under which he

faw she laboured. In part he succeeded; and time, which lessens all forrows, at length softened hers. And here we shall take leave of this worthy couple for a long season; trusting they will continue to live and to be happy, while we follow the fortunes of their son.

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## CHAP. XXII.

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The state of which the state of the total I HE packet had proceeded but a fhort way on her voyage when the weather changed, as we have feen before; and the wind coming now contrary, and blowing fresh, there was a general discharge among the passengers of all they had eaten the day before. Ned was not free from thefe qualms; yet he was not so taken up with his own fufferings, but that he could feel for the ladies who were on board, and whose unavoidable distresses made them real objects of compassion. He endeavoured to relieve them as long as he was able, but the vessel continuing to work violently, he was obliged to retire to his birth. They continued the whole night at fea; but the weather having grown more favourable towards morning, he was able, as foon as it was day, to go upon deck. Here he had the first view of the Irish shore. The fight of any land is pleasant to one who has not been accustomed to the sea, but the bay of Dublin prefents objects particularly grand and noble. He faw it this morning in its highest beauty. On one fide was the Hill of Howth, with the romantic rock called Ireland's eye, and the island of Lambay beyond it; on the other were the Wicklow Mountains rising to the ikies, and their tops still shrowded with the morning clouds. In front appeared the lighthouse, white as snow, and looking like Venus

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rifing out of the waves. The spires of the metropolis glimmered at a distance through the mist that always hangs over great cities, while the new rifen sun gilded the intermediate country, rich in an infinite variety, where groves and palaces, cottages and meads, towns and country seats, masts and trees seemed blended together. Ned, who had a taste for painting, could not fail to be delighted with the beauty of this prospect; but, charming as it was, could he have distinguished among it the dwelling of Lady Cecilia, I believe the other objects would

have been but little regarded.

About eight o'clock in the morning they paffed the bar; and a wherry always attending the packet, he was in less than an hour after landed on the quay, opposite the Marine Hotel. he had a proof of the amazing hospitality and good manners of the Irith; for he had scarcely fet his foot upon the ground, when half a dozen ragamusins without coats, and others without shoes, welcomed his honour on shore, and feemed to be almost quarrelling among themselves which should take his honour's trunk to the hotel, which was about twenty yards diftance. At last this was effected by agreement; for two carried the trunk, which weighed about three stone, and another carried his boots which weighed about three pounds, and they only demanded three fixpence halfpennies. It had hardly been deposited three minutes in the house, when another very obliging gentleman appeared, who told his honour he was an officer of the customs, and that his trunk must be taken to the eustem-house; but, if his honour would give him a shilling, he would dispense with the laws fo far as to permit him to take any thing out of it he pleased. Poor Ned complied with the utmost Badir

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most good humour with these extortions, but told the officer he had not less than half-a-guinea about him. The other very politely offered to get it changed; whereupon Ned gave it to him directly for that purpose. His fea sickness being now quite gone, and his stomach completely empty, he asked the landford if he could get any thing for breakfast; who replied, he might have any thing he pleafed. He was then shewn into a very handsome and well-furnished parlour, though they had forgot to fweep it for about a week before, and here his breakfast was ferved; which, to do the landlord justice, was both good and reasonable, and Ned did it ample justice in the eating. Poor Morgan too, who was as hungry as his mafter, was equally well ferved without. Ned now wondered the officer did not come back with his change; but those who knew that gentleman better, would have wondered more if he had. The truth is, he was no officer at all; but he thought, by the innocence of Ned's countenance, that he was a fine subject for a cheat; in which he too happily succeeded, and the poor youth was obliged to purchase this first piece of experience at the price of half-a-guinea. But now a real officer appeared, whose story, however, was much the same as the other's, and only differed in the authority of the teller. So Ned having taken out some articles of dress, and ten guineas in money, he delivered his trunk to the officer, and ordered David to go with him to the customhouse with the key, and when it was searched to bring it back. Meanwhile he got a hair-dreffer to fet his head in order; and having put on his best clothes, which were the same we formerly mentioned to be approved of by Lady Cecilia, Cecilia, he only waited for Morgan's return to go to pay his respects to that divine beauty.

His heart was so eager to behold her ladyship, that he thought every minute an hour till he returned; and he was so often at the door of the house looking for him, that the maids took that opportunity of gazing at him till they put him entirely out of countenance. "He is a charming fellow," said one, "and has the finest eyes I ever saw." "He has the best legs that ever I saw with an Englishman," says a second, "but I think he is a little too shame-saced." "That's owing to his youth," said a third; "but I should like him charmingly for a husband." Whilst these elegant observations were making, Morgan returned with the trunk, which Ned delivered into the custody of the landlord till he should send for it, and he promised to take care of it. He ordered Morgan to stay there too, and sallied out himself in quest of Lord Ravensdale's.

It was no difficult matter to find his lordship's house. As he went up to the door his heart palpitated at his fide, and his breath was as short as if he had run three miles. He had resolution enough, however, to knock at it, when it was opened by a footman in a very elegant livery. Ned asked if Lord Ravensdale was at home? The man answered, that his Lordship and Lady Cecilia had gone down to the country three days before, and that they were not expected again foon. This was a grievous disappointment to poor Ned, as the servant, if he had been expert in reading countenances, might eafily have perceived. He then asked if any of the family were in town? The man answered, that both Lord Rivers and the Captain were in town, but that his Lordship was not yet rifen, and the Cap was him nam he v may Eva aga

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plu agr Captain had gone out several hours ago. Ned was now going away; when the servant asked him if he would not be so good as to leave his name, or that if he would call again in an hour he would probably find Lord Rivers up. "You may tell his lordship," said Ned, "that Mr. Evans from Wales was here, and that I will call again." He then went away, and the servant

shut the door.

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As Lord Ravensdale's house was in Merrion Square, he intended to amuse himself with fauntering about the neighbouring streets, and admiring the many beautiful buildings which furrounded him, until it should be time to call again on Lord Rivers. Passing along Merrionsfreet, he was infinitely struck with the grandeur of the Duke of Leinster's. The beautiful opening at the back of that noble palace, and the elegant disposition of the ground, with the refreshing verdure of the lawn, and the variety of shrubs that surround it, charmed his fancy, and made-him think it a dwelling fit for a fovereign. As he stood admiring it, two stout lads approached him who had each a basket on his head, and a knife with a piece of steel at his fide. He asked one of these lads, whose noble palace that was which he was looking at? "Oh Jesus!" fays the other, "Where were you born, that you don't know who lives there?" "What's that to you where I was born?" faid Ned; "I ask you whose house that is?" "What's that to you whose house it is?" faid the other: "Go look, and be damned!" Ned, who was not accustomed to this language, grew a little angry; which the other observing, faid, " By Jesus, hur is a Welchman, hur Welch plud is up. Ah! when did hur cross the ferry, agrah! and how did hur leave St. Taffy, and

who milks hur grandmother's goats, now hur is away?" Ned, whose Welch blood was now up in earnest at this disrespectful mention of his country, gave the fellow a stroke with a rattan which he had in his hand; and was preparing to give him another, when the second boy came behind him, and clapped his empty basket downwards over his head, and pulling him back tripped him at the same time, so that he fell backwards on the ground; and the cunning rascal pretending to fall at top of him, wedged his head in the handle of the basket, and left him in that awkward situation, and both of them

ran away.

Though Ned was taken unawares, yet he foon recovered himself, and got difengaged from the basket. A chairman who chanced to come by then being informed by him what had happened, went into a gentleman's house; and bringing out a clothes-brush freed him from the dust, and asfifted to put him to rights. Ned was very thankful for this civility; and putting his hand in his pocket to give him a shilling, he found his purse was gone with the ten guineas he had just put into it; and what he regretted still more, his watch, which was a present from his father, whose companion it had been for thirty years. There was no help for it, however—the thing was fo fudden, he would not have known the scoundrels again if he was to see them: like the wind, he could neither tell whence they came, nor whither they went. The chairman however condoled with his misfortune, and thanked him for his intention, as much as if he had got the shilling; and then left him, giving him this good advice, that if in future he should ever be at a loss for information in the streets, never to alk any body but a chairman, who, he could alfure

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fure him, were all of them men of honour, and would not impose upon a stranger for the world.

Poor Ned being now on his legs again, and readjusted as to his dress, though without a penny in his pocket, walked on towards Stephen's Green. The noble grandeur of this magnificent square surprised as much as it delighted him, and he was aftonished to see so extensive an open in the midst of a populous city. trees were already putting forth their leaves, and the grass in the field exhibited the richest verdure, indebted for its early fpring to the richness of the ground, the warmth of the city, and the mild openness of the Irish climate, which brings every thing forward a month fooner than in Wales. In the Beau-walk, which he had now entered, were a great number of well-dreffed people of both fexes, walking in parties, and enjoying the fineness of the day; whilst the elegant dreffes of the ladies, and the freshness of their complexions, made him almost believe he was in the island of Cythera, the native country of beauty and the graces. He might have indulged this imagination for some time longer, if he had not been accosted by an old beggar-woman, who with a face of the most abject want, with hardly a rag to cover her, asked him for a halfpenny. He gave her a look of pity, which unhappily was all he had to give, and told her he was forry that he had nothing about him, for he had just parted with all the money he had brought out. She gave a figh, and turned up her eyes to Heaven-" God bless your sweet face!" faid she, " and may the holy Jesus enlarge your store!" As he walked on he observed the equeltrian flatue in the centre of the field, though from its distance he could barely distinguish what it was .- He wished to be informed about VOL I.

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it; but not feeing any chairman near him, was afraid to ask questions. At last, recollecting that he could not be robbed, and feeing at a diftance a gentleman walking alone, whom, by a certain elevation of the head, a fleek countenance, and a coat of the most glossy black, he concluded to be a dignified clergyman, he determined to ask him. Just as he was approaching him, he perceived the poor beggar-woman stretching out her hand to him, and befeeching his reverence to bestow something on her for charity. " Pr'ythee begone, woman !" faid the divine, "I never give any thing to heggars."-She dropped a curtfy, and retired. Ned's heart was smote:—he suffered him to pass unnoticed. When he was gone out of hearing, he asked the poor woman who he was? "It is Doctor Porpoise, Sir," said she; "the greatest preacher in the kingdom, and they fay he is to be the first bishop." "He may preach as he pleases," said Ned, "but his practice is very bad." " Oh no," faid the poor woman, " your honour does not know him—he subscribes to all the charities in the kingdom, and it is thought he will build an hospital himself." " He may build ten if he will," faid Ned, "but he knows nothing of charity, and whenever he dies he will find his charity at the head of his fins." "Oh! God forbid!" faid the poor woman; " I wish him well, though he gave me nothing." "Good woman," faid Ned, "where do you live?" " Alas, fir !" faid she, " I am ashamed to tell you—I live in the streets—Where else can such a wretch as I am find a habitation?" " I will fee you here to-morrow," faid Ned, " and ! will give you fomething to get a better habitation" He was then going, but the woman held his coat-" Oh fir, give me teave to afk; but

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and I abitaroman o alk; but but-indeed I am afraid." " What are you afraid of?" faid Ned; " ask what you want to know." " Are you an angel, fir? for you look to like one, I would kifs the hem of your garment." The strangeness of the question, for he perceived by her countenance that she was really in doubt, had like to make him laugh. He however kept his gravity, and replied that he was indeed nothing but a man, and a poor one too-" Nevertheless," faid he, " I will not deceive you." The poor woman curtied to the ground; and while the was praying to the Almighty to reward him, he continued his walk. Books a Latter of the Late of the contract of the state

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## EAVY TOUR CHAP. XXIII. I' LOUD

lance and expenses explained release an eginer

HE made the circuit of the whole green, in which he saw much to admire, and still more to condemn. The magnificence of many of the houses pleased—while the meanness of others, and the want of regularity in the whole, dd not fail to offend. But what difgusted him most was the deep ditch which furrounds the fields, with a nasty, stinking, green, unwholesome puddle at the bottom, which can answer no end but to annoy the inhabitants, and which it is aftonishing they have so long endured. If that ditch was filled up, over a concealed drain; if the centre field was laid out in walks and fhrubbery; if the mean houses were removed, and new ones built on a regular and uniform plan, Stephen's Green would be the most beautiful square in any city in Europe.

Having now been near two hours on his walk, he returned back to Lord Ravensdale's. When the servant opened the door he informed him that Lord Rivers had been obliged to go out, on business he could not neglect, but that he would be home to dinner, when he hoped to have the honour of Mr. Evans's company. The footman then shewed him up to the drawing room.—Though Ned was no stranger to the best houses in his own neighbourhood, yet he had never seen any thing like the apartment which he now entered. The room was 44 feet long,

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34 wide, and 30 high; -it was hung with filk damask of an azure blue; chairs, sophas, and window curtains of the same; the latter hung in festoons, and ornamented with tassels and a deep fringe of blue and filver. The cieling and cornices were of the finest stucco, divided into compartments, in the four principal of which were painted, by an exquifite hand, the four feafons: from the centre hung a luftre of cut glass, with branches for six-and-thirty candles, and which with all its appendages had cost 1000 guineas. The beauty of the chimney-piece was inexpressible, which was all of Parian marble, and on the top of which stood the statues of two naked boys, which were worthy to be the work of Phidias. The glaffes, the carpets, and every thing elfe were answerable.—But the richest part of the furniture, and in comparison of which all the rest was nothing, was the pictures. Here were the works of Titian, Guido, Correggio, and Tintoret. A landscape, by Claude, had caught his eye, for this was his favourite kind of painting, when, chancing to turn his head to the glass, he thought he faw Lady Cecilia behind him. He farted and looked hastily round, but alas! it was only her relemblance—but then fo exquifitely like that it almost made amends for the disappointment. The noble works of the Italian matters were now obliged to yield to the more interesting pencil of Angelica-for the it was who painted this Mrs. Kanffman had been some time before in Ireland, and Lord Ravensdale could not mis the opportunity of getting his daughter painted by to excellent an artift. She was drawn in the character of Diana; and never did the Goddels herfelf on the banks of the renowned Eurotas, or in the numbers of the fublimest poet, exhibit a more striking combination of majesty and sweetness, of beauty, chastity and grace. Ned gazed at it with rapture, astonished at the art that could so happily represent the picture of his soul; and here he would still have gazed, had not a thundering rap at the door, which shook the whole house, and which astonished him, who had never in his life heard the like before, announced the arrival of Lord

Rivers and the Captain.

The brothers immediately went up stairs; and Lord Rivers advancing to Edward with a sliding bow—" I am infinitely happy," said he, "Captain Evans, to have the honour of seeing you in this house; and I can affure you that my father and I, and all the family have so just a sense of the great obligation you have laid us under, that nothing on our parts shall be wanting to make your stay among us in this kingdom agreeable." Ned stood blushing to the eyes.—" Brother soldier," said the captain, "I do not make long speeches, but I am glad to see you here with all my heart; and so give me your hand."

This last address relieved Ned from his embarrassement, being much nearer his own style. He cordially shook hands with the captain; and after expressing his gratitude to his lordship and the family for so infinitely over-rating any little fervice that he had been so fortunate as to render Lady Cecilia, he sat down. They now enquired about his passage, the weather, the news in England, and last of all, where he had lest his baggage. My lord told him he was to consider that house as his home; and, having rung the bell, he immediately dispatched one of his fervants to the hotel, to bring David and the

baggage to the houfe.

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The clock now struck five-when a servant ation appearing announced that dinner was on the ta-Atity The captain faid he would shew Ned the , alway, who followed after, and his lordship went prelast. In the parlour was a table elegantly coould vered, and a tervant in a laced livery behind t the every chair. Ned stood some time expecting hich the grace; but finding it did not arrive, he fat eard down. He and the captain did justice to a most Lord excellent dinner, as excellently drefled; but his lordship could hardly touch any thing-he pidand dled a little with a ragout of palates and cockscombs, but was obliged to a glass of Burgundy he, to make it go down. His constitution indeed feemed wearing apace:—though his countenance was noble, and his figure elegant in the extreme-though he was in the very prime of life, being scarcely twenty-five years of ageyet there was a thoughtful melancholy in his look, which gave him a much older appearance, and the perpetual vigils of fashionable diffipation made him much older in conflitution even than the appeared. The captain, on the contrary, who loved the sports of the field, and who spent as much time in the country as he possibly could, was as fine a young fellow of twenty-two as you would fee in a thousand. When the cloth was removed, and the grace forgot as before, a beautiful desiert in china and cut-glass was placed upon the table, confifting of all the fruits in feafon, and those that were out of feafon preferved, whilst the finest wines of France blushed in the decanters.—After a full bumper to the king, and fuccefs to his arms by fea and land, Lord Rivers's spirits began to revive: an elegant and ipirited convertation took place, which, enriched with claret and enlivened by chairpagne, abounded both with wit and information.

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I wish I could repeat it to my readers, but wit at second-hand evaporates; suffice it to say, Ned bore his share, and during a couple of hours that they sat together greatly surprised them by his sallies of humour, united with politeness, modesty, and good sense. The captain in particular conceived a warm affection for him, and my lord declared he wanted nothing but a little intercourse with high-life, to rub off his bashfulness, and he would be an absolute beau gar con.

His lordship then asked his brother where he was to spend the evening? who answered, that not knowing of Mr. Evans's arrival, he had promifed that morning to sup with his poor friend Malone, "who you know," fays he, " is inconfolable for the loss of his wife; and nothing but fuch an engagement as this, which I cannot put off, could make me part with you this evening." My lord faid, he would rather go to a funeral than to fuch an engagement. "You will hear nothing but the graces and virtues of his dear Louisa, and nonsensical whimfies about her employment in heaven .- But come, Captain Evans," faid he, " you shall go with me, I will carry you to a felect fet, all of them choice spirits, and fellows of the first fashion and fortune in the kingdom. We have a room at a tavern, where such of us as are not otherwife engaged meet every night, and where every thing is cheerful and fans fouci.'

Ned faid, he would be happy to attend his lordship where he went. But now being informed that his servant had arrived with his trunk, he was shewn up to his chamber, where it was deposited. The splendour of this apartment was suitable to the rest of the house; and now he took out what remained of his meney, being somewhat above thirty guineas, not doubt-

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The chariot being now at the door, his lordthip and Ned Repped into it, and they were driven though streets which surprised Edward by their number and their illuminations, to the place of their destination. They were shewn up-Azirs into a large room very well furnished, or rather two rooms thrown into one, with a fire-place at each end, and a curtain which could be raised or let down at will in the middle. At one end of the room was a table ready laid for supper, with all things proper for an elegant entertainment; at the other end were four card-tables, at one of which was a party engaged at whift, and two gentlemen franding at the fire. "Oh Rivers! are you come?" faid one of them: " What the devil kept you fo late? Here is Sir George and I have been picking our teeth this hour." " Why, how long has the house been up?" faid my lord: "I thought you had been there to-day." " Oh, damn the house !!' faid the other; " I don't believe 'tis up yet I expect every minute to be fent for to vote." "Why, what are you upon!" " Damn me if I know !- Flood was making an oration about something or other; but he is so damnably long-winded, I had like to have fallen afleep: fo Sir George called me out into the lobby, and we both stole off together." "And how will you know how to vote then ?" faid Lord Rivers. "Oh! damn you, Rivers !" faid the other, " who would think of your asking me that question? When you give your vote, do you always know what is the debate?? -" Yes certainly," faid my lord. " Well, it K 3

may be so, fed credat Judaus.—But I do not mean to contradict you." "Well, come," said Lord Rivers, " it makes no difference to be fure, we all of us vote with our party; and if the heads of that know what they are about, it is very well. Here let me introduce this gentleman to you, Trimwell; this is-Captain 

Evans, from Wales."

Ned was then introduced to all the gentlemen, who received him with respect; and his lordthip proposing to fit down to cards, he was compelled to make one ;-but first he declared against playing high, and faid he understood fo little of cards, that if they could do without him, he would rather not play at all. Lord Rivers faid, they played for mere nothing; only for half guineas, unless he chose to bet. Ned said he never made any bets; and as he thought it was half-aguinea a rubber, and that he really understood the game very well, he thought it would be rude to spoil their party: so he was prevailed upon to cut. Lord Rivers and he happened to be partners; and Fortune being in the mood of favouring him he won the rubber. His lordship, who betted on the rubber, and on every odd trick, won also very confiderably, and this put him into high good-humour. Ned expected only half-a guinea; but he received two guineas and a half, it being a rubber of five. This however did not give him much fatisfaction, as it shewed him he was playing for a much larger stake than he intended. He was however engaged, and he could not give over without breaking up the party: fo he continued to fit on. He played three rubbers more; and Fortune, as if the intended to feduce him to be a gamester, favoured him in every

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mo Au He heard now confused noises behind the curtain, which had been let down, among which he distinguished semale voices; and one of the waiters announcing supper to be on the table, the card parties broke up, and Ned rose a winner

of eight guineas and a half.

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The table was covered to profusion, with every thing rare and elegant, the very names of which Ned never heard before. The ladies, who were four in number, were laughing at the upper end, dreffed in the top of the mode; patched, painted, powdered, and perfumed, with plumes of feathers nodding on their heads: he supposed them to be ladies of fashion, by their ease and their forwardness, especially as he remembered Lord Rivers's observation, that he only wanted acquaintance with high life to rub off his bashfulness. He thought however they stared at him more than was confiftent with good breeding, and their whifpering and tittering did not appear perfectly polite. The company now fat down, Lord Rivers at the upper end.-Come, gentlemen," faid he, " mix with the laidies, and fit as they do in France; let us have no ceremonies here: Captain Evans, as you are the only stranger, and my gueft, you will be pleafed to fit near me." All things being now adjusted, they fat down. Every body helped themselves to what they liked, or called to another, if what they liked was not near them. Ned observed that the gentlemen scarce tasted any thing; but the ladies made amends, for they devoured every thing as if they had fasted during a whole bent. As foon as one of the ladies could difengage her mouth from the leg of a duck which the had stuffed into it, she asked Ned if he would hobe

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nob .- " Hob nob, madam !" faid Ned, " what is that? I have not the honour to understand you." " O Jefus, fir!" faid she, " did you never hob nob with a woman in all your life?" Ned, who was aftonished beyond all conception, could not tell what to answer, but blushed like scarlet. Most of the company laughed-but Lord Rivers faid, " Captain Evans, the lady only means to ask you to drink a glass of wine with her; which in this country is called hob nobbing. I believe in Wales you have no fuch term." " I really did not comprehend the lady's meaning," faid Ned; " but I will drink a glass of wine with her with all my heart."-She then toffed off a bumper to Love and Friendship; in which Ned pledged her, though he thought in his own mind the was no object of either. and grandford intrito dur of o'.

Another of the ladies hearing that Ned came from Wales, asked him if there were not a great many goats in it. He answered, that he believed there might, " Aye," fays she, "I thought to; you look to fresh complexioned -I suppose you live upon their whey?" Ned affured her that he never tafted a trop of their whey in all his life. "By the living jingo, that's very old," faid the: " why it is the greatest restorative in nature." " O fie, Pol-Jy," faid another of the ladies, " do not fwear-you knows I hates fwearing, it founds fo wulgar."-" Why now!" faid the other, Me it is hardly a month fince I heard you fwear Peg Plunket black in the face." " Madam," faid the other, " I fcorn your words; and if I did fwear once, it is a profane custom, and I have left it off." " Come, come, ladies," faid my lord, " no quarrelling; all here must have freedom freedom of speech." " She is grown so sanctified fince the took up with Parlon Simper, the methodist," said the fourth lady, "that in another month we shall have her preaching fermons!" "Madam," faid the other, " what-ever you fay of me, I beg you will spare that holy man, and do not make a jest of religion." "Why, what is religion but a jest?" said Sir Thomas Spindle, a worn-out emaciated rake of seven-and-twenty; " damn me if any thing is fo difgusting to me as to hear a woman prate with virtue in her mouth and vice in her heart!" " Well, Sir Thomas," faid the lady, " nobody will accuse you of either one or the other—for I defy any body to fay they ever heard a virtuous fentiment come out of your mouth !" Here the laugh turned against poor Sir Thomas, in which every body joined except Ned, who was now fully apprifed of the character of the ladies, and whose ditgust and contempt rose to absolute abhorrence.

A reinforcement of gentlemen now coming in from the house, which had just broke up, the conversation took a political turn, much to the Satisfaction of Ned, who was thereby relieved from ribaldry and profanencis. Some of the new-comers displayed both genius and sentiment, which a little reconciled him to his fituations and the ladies retiring without any body taking notice, except one or two of the gentlemen going off with them, among whom was Sir Thomas Spindle with the very girl who turned him to ridicule, he refumed his complacency and

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to be engaged; and he would have liftened to it with all his heart: but a difference in fentiment arifing, they began to grow warm; when Lord Rivers called them to order, and defired them to remember that that room was dedicated to Concord. A libation of claret being then offered to that deity, cards were again proposed, as those who last came in had not played at all. Ned was again challenged to the field, by the gentlemen whose money he had won, and whom therefore he could not decently refuse. But the game they now played at was not whist, but loo, as taking in a greater number; and Lord Rivers was excused, as presiding over the wine. For some time Fortune continued favourable to Ned; but at last the fickle goddess changed, and, after an hour's run of continual ill-luck, he found he had not only lost all that he had won, but fixteen guineas more. He now determined to give over, which nothing but his mauvaise honte had prevented him from doing long before. He therefore asked Lord Rivers, in a whisper, what time he thought of going home? " Not these three hours," said his lordship: " sure you are not tired—the fun is only beginning." " I beg to be excused, for my part," said Ned, " for I really am fatigued; I got no rest last night at sea, and I confess I long to get to bed."
"Oh then, if that is the case," said his lordship, "I dare say my carriage is in waiting, which shall carry you home when you please. As he went out of the room, his lordship followed him; and being alone altogether on the head of the stairs, he faid to Ned, " Perhaps, my dear fellow, you have been unlucky. If you have lost any money, the only way to retrieve it is to play on; and if you are out of cash, here

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is my purse for you, which you may always freely command on this or any other occasion." Ned thanked his lordship, but affured him it was no fuch thing-he was really tired. But the generofity of the offer, and the noble frankness with which it was made, restored Lord Rivers to his esteem, who had bugun a little to fink in it before. The carriage being now ready, Lord Rivers returned to the company, and Ned went home to Lord Ravensdale's.

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WHEN Ned alighted at Lord Rayenfdale's, he enquired for Captain Rivers, and was told he had gone to bed three hours before. The fervant then shewed him up to his chamber, where a pair of wax candles were burning, and where David Morgan was stirring the fire, and waiting to attend him. When they were by them-felves, "Well, Morgan," faid he, "what have you been doing, and how do you like Dublin?" " Oh! master, 'tis the finest place in all the world," faid he. " Doing! Oh, fuch rare doing! I never faw the like in all my life. My lord and you had hardly been gone half an hour, when company came to Mr. O'Frizzle, my lord's gentleman, and to Mrs. Mulroony, the house-keeper-for you must know they are very great, and always fee company together. There was Mrs. Geoghegan, Lady Rumpus's waiting woman, and Miss Flanagan her niece; and there was Monfieur Papillote, a sweetheart of Miss Flanagan's, and Mr. Sideboard my lord's butler—and to be fure they were all dreffed like fo many lords and ladies. And the ladies came carried by men in leather boxes, but the gentlemen walked-and they were all shewed in to Mrs. Mulroony's room, which she said would be more convenient than the parlour, as Captain Rivers was in town; and there they had tea and cards." " Well, and did you play cards too?" faid

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" Oh! no," faid Morgan: " Does said Ned. your honour think I would be fuch a fool as to lose my little money among folks so much above me?" " Hem! hem!" faid Ned, " you were very wife indeed-Go on-what did you do then?" "Why, Mrs. Mulroony defired the cook to have supper by eleven; and she said, 'Yes, to be fure madam.' So the maids got their tea when the ladies had done, and they invited me and my Lord's footman to drink tea with them; and so we all did, to be sure; and after we had done, then we all went and played blind-man's buff in the servant's hall till supper was ready, and then the footmen went to attend upon the ladies; and when they had done, it was brought in to us; and a rare supper it was, and plenty of it, enough to keep a Welch squire for a fortnight; and fo we had hardly done when Mr. Sideboard brought a bottle of claret, and gave it to me because I was a stranger; and so I poured it into a large bowl of punch for the good of the company, and we all drank it, and were as happy as so may fiddlers; -and we had hardly finished when your honour came home." "Well," faid Ned, "'tis very fine indeed. But go now to your bed-you need not flay up So Morgan retired, and left his mafter to himself.

When he was alone, the events of the day came crowding on his mind. "What an idiot am I!" faid he to himself, "and how improper to be left to my own guidance! I have not yet been eight-and-forty hours from the protection of my father, and how bitterly do I feel the want of him! Into what diffress have my folly and inexperience already led me!" He now took out his purse, and laid it on the table he surveyed it for a moment in filence,

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as if afraid to count its contents. At last he emptied them out, and found that of the fifty guineas which his father gave him but two days before, he had but feventeen remaining; and that he had not got one earthly thing, not even pleafure, in exchange. "This fum," faid he, " which I have thus loft and squandered in one day, would have maintained my poor father for a whole year. Yet," faid he, "it shall not be wholly loft; it shall at least purchase me experience: and I have this comfort, that though I have lost it by folly, I have not squandered it on vice. Oh! my loved father," faid he, "thou art now fleeping in thy bed! Perhaps in the very hour in which thy fon was fitting among proftitutes; thy hands were lifted to Heaven in prayer for him. Nor shall they be lifted up in vain," faid he; "I am not contaminated by the vile fociety into which I was ignorantly introduced, and into which nothing shall ever betray me again. I will prostrate myself before thy father and mine; and I will commit myself in confidence to his protection." With these words he retired to his bed-fide, and, falling on his knees, spent ten minutes in the most devout prayer. He arose refreshed—the burthen of having done wrong was removed—and a fecret gleam of fatisfaction, which the consciousness of acting right always inspires, shot through his foul, and restored his spirits to composure. He now undreffed to go to bed; but first he determined to put back the remains of his money in his trunk, and never to carry about him more than a guinea or two at a time, for fear of accidents. He recurned it therefore to the place from whence he took it; and in rummaging about to get a clean night-cap, was surprised to see wedged in a cotner his father's tobacco-box. He could not conceive

conceive who had put it there; yet he was glad to fee it for the fake of him to whom it belonged; for fince he had loft the watch, he had no little keep-fake to remember him by. He took it out, and was going to kifs it; but when he felt it, he was at no loss to know who put it there—the good and generous curate had indeed conveyed it there himself, and in it the htty guineas which he could not prevail on his fon to take. Ned stood in no need of this present to endear his father to him; yet the surprise at this unexpected generofity, the delicacy with which it was managed, and the folid comfort which it brought, almost overwhelmed him with gratitude. The fulness of his heart found a vent at his eyes; and now, all burthens being removed, he furrendered himself to the sweet bleffing of

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It was nine in the morning when he arole, and then he went down to the parlour: there he found Captain Rivers reading the newspapers, and the table laid for breakfast. "Good-morrow to you, my friend," faid the captain; " how have you rested all night?" " Never better," replied Ned, " for the time of it that I have been in bed." "Well, how did you like your company?" faid the captain. "Why, faith, to be fincere with you," faid Ned, "I was a little disappointed there." "I was afraid it would be fo," replied the other; "but when my brother asked you to go, it did not become me to make any objections -- Did you play ?" "Why, yes," faid he; "I could not help it." "And you lost too, I dare say?" "Why, yes," faid Ned, " you are right there too; but not a great-deal." Ned then recounted to him all the transactions of the evening. " My dear friend," laid the captain, " I am glad you have been among

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among them once, and I am glad too that you have loft your money—for I did fo too; and I dare fay you will follow my example, and never hazard it there again. In the company among whom you were last night, were some men both of genius and virtue; and there are many more belonging to the club of the fame character, whom you did not fee. The ruin of it is, there are others of a different framp, and unluckily there were too many of these there last night. But what makes it entirely unfit for you or me is, that all the members of it are curfed with great fortunes; which enable them to do whatever they please, and to justify whatever they do. My poor brother is fo attached to the freedom and wit that fometimes reign there, that I cannot prevail upon him to leave the fociety, though he by no means approves of every thing that is allowed there, and their late hours have visibly impaired his health. It is hardly two hours fince he went to bed. But while we stay in town, I will take the liberty of conducting you; and I can affure you, you may keep the very best company in it for a month, and play cards too with them every evening, for the balf of the money you have lost last night. And now that I have mentioned money to you, I beg you will not think me impertinent in prefuming to offer you some: I know you must want it, and that you will still want it; and I know how dreadful that want is to a gentleman of delicacy and feeling. He then offered him a bank-bill for fifty pounds. Ned, however, abfolutely refused to take it. He frankly told him what money he had by him, and how obtainedand laid, he should never forgive himself, if he tould not make his pay ferve him, which was fo much more than he was born to, and which autons

to many men better than himself were obliged to live on.

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Captain Rivers applauded his fentiments, and was greatly pleased with the generosity of old Evans. " As you have to much money by you," faid he, "I will not hurt your feelings by preffing this on you now; but in return I infift upon your making me your banker, and applying to me whenever you are out and in this I will not pretend either to friendship or generofity, for I have my father's orders for fo doing; and I am fure it is not his intention to leave you to fubfist on your commission."-" Your father," replied Ned, "has already conferred favours upon me infinitely beyond what I was any way entitled to; I cannot think therefore of becoming burdensome to his generolity, or overwhelming myself with obligations which I never can repay but by my gratitude."—" And is not that ample payment?" replied the Captain: "What more precious offering can a generous mind cither give or receive? But in your case, my dear friend, the debtor is my father; we are all your debtors-believe me that we think fo, and that it is not the paltry gift of your commission that shall acquit us."-Ned was at some loss to reply. "You are all of you too good," faid he. "But shall I ever see your father? Shall I be permitted to thank him in person for his kindness, and to have the happiness again to see Lady Cecilia?"-" Doubtlefs," faid he, " you shall. We have expected you here fome time:--iny father has been lately ill, and the phyficians thought country air necessary to his recoveryhad that not been the case, he would have been in town, for he is very scrupulous in his attendance on parliament. I wrote to him last night that you were come, and I doubt not but the next

next post will bring us a summons to go down to him."—This was new life to Ned, whose satisfaction could hardly be increased—unless by the arrival of a mountain of toast and butter, with which the sootman now entered the room—for the man was so sagacious, he measured Ned's stomach by the Captain's, and indeed the event

shewed he had not been mistaken.

They were in the middle of their breakfast. when a fervant came to tell Ned that a chairman wanted to speak to him. "To speak to me!" faid Ned: " What can he want? I know nobody in the town." "Bid him come to the door here," faid the Captain, " and fay what he wants. You fee Mr. Evans is at breakfast." " I am come," faid the chairman, " please your Honour, to tell you I have discovered the two boys who robbed your Honour yesterday; your watch and your money is found upon them, and they are both in custody." "Good God!" faid Captain Rivers, "what is this? Have you been robbed too fince you came?" "I'll tell you all by and by," faid Ned; " but the adventure was fo ridiculous, I was ashamed to mention it before. How did you find them, my friend?" faid he to the chairman; " I fee you are indeed a man of honour, as you told me." " I hope I am, please your Honour, and worthy the name which I bear." "Why, what is your name?" faid Captain Rivers .- " Phelim O'Shaghneffy, please your Honour," said the other. " It is a very fine founding name indeed," replied the Captain, " and ought not to be difgraced."-" Nor never shall by me," faid the chairman. "But as I was telling your Honour, after I parted with you yesterday after brushing your Honour's clothes, I thought with myfelf, now tis ten to one but these boys will go into some

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ale-house near at hand, to drink and to divide their spoil; or perhaps one of them may skulk fomewhere about, and come back by and by for his basket. So I sets one of my companions to watch the basket, and I went myself to all the ale-houses in the neighbourhood; and fure enough as I fancied, fo it fell out; for at Larry Dermot's, the corner of Stable-lane, I fees my two gentlemen fet up in a box together, and laughing most heartily over a pot. I made as if I knew nothing, but fat down beside them and called for a pot too. Gentlemen, fays I, here's both your healths. Thank you heartily, fays they; here's yours. I wonder, fays I, what a clock it is; I am engaged to wait upon a gen-Upon this one of them pulled tleman at two. out his watch, Oh! it wants half an hour of two yet. I'm glad of it, fays I. Will you be fo good, faid I, as to keep this pot of ale for me till I go to the corner to speak to my partner? and I'll be back in ten minutes. To this they agreed. So I went and brought Paddy Grogan, and told him what it was to do. Now, gentlemen, faid I, you will both go along with us; you are pretty fellows to go and rob a young gentleman in open day, and think to escapebut you shall go along with us to Alderman Ketchup, and he will know best what to do with you. All their laughing was now spoiled, and they looked as lank as shotten herrings; they fell down on their knees, and offered us five guineas to let them escape; but I told them it was affronting our honour to offer us a bribe; lo we carried them away to the Alderman's, but it was eight o'clock at night before we could fee his worship, all which time we were kept fasting. At last his worship called us in-At first he began with asking us a great many questions

that did not feem to be any thing to the purpose; and then he consulted his clerk about law; and then he examined us again, and crofs examined us, till I thought he believed that we were the thieves, and not the boys. So I told his worship, to cut the matter short, that I could swear to the robbery, and that your Honour was a great gentleman, and lived at Lord Ravensdale's, and that he had better not let the boys escape, for the money and the watch was upon them. At the mention of Lord Ravensdale his tone changed; he ordered the boys to be fearched, and fure enough the watch and ten guineas were found; fo he committed them to the watchhouse till further examination. I called here last night, but your Honour was not at home; fo I came again this morning to acquaint you."-" My good friend," faid Evans, " I am very much obliged to you, and I will thankfully reward you for your trouble." " We will go together to the alderman's," faid Captain Rivers, " by and by; and in the mean time, Mr. O'Shaghneffy, if you will go down to the butler, I will order you something to refresh you." "I humbly thank your Honour!" faid the chairman, and retired.

"What is this, my dear Evans!" faid the Captain; " not two hours in town, and to be robbed at noon-day? I never heard the like." Ned then related the whole as the reader has feen; which ferved as a matter of laughter to them both. They now went out together to the alderman's, where the affair was foon adjusted: Ned got his watch and his money again; and the two boys, who were apprentices to a butcher in Castle Market, were, at the intercession of him and Captain Rivers, delivered to their maiter : COLL

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As the Captain had some business of his own to do in the town, Ned begged he would go about it; and faid that he would go to Stephen's Green, where he would walk in the mean time, and where he would be fure to find The two friends then separated; the Captain to go on his errand, and Ned to keep his promife with that poor creature whose heart he had relieved the day before, and to his business with whom he did not wish to have any witness. He had not been long in the walk till he faw her in the same misery as before, and foliciting charity with as little fuccess. eyes brightened when she beheld him, and a feeble fmile foftened for a moment the horrors of her famished countenance. He drew her a littleto one fide, out of the immediate notice of the passengers. " I am come," said he, " to keep. my word with you, and to give you fome little relief; tell me then how I can best be of fervice to you. Have you any friend in this town?" "" O no Sir!" faid she;" " no, not one." What then brought you to it?" faid he. " I shall tell you, Sir. I was born, Sir, in the county of Cork, where my father was a day-labourer, and when I was twenty years of age I was married to a man who was also of the same business-by him, Sir, I had four children. He died fix years ago come All-faints. I had three fons, Sir, grown up to be men; two of them went to sea, but whether they be alive or dead I cannot tell, for I have not heard of them for many years. My youngest son, Sir, was groom to Doctor Porpoife, whom you faw yesterday; and while he lived I never wanted for any thing, for he was a loving boy, and, after his fifter died, kept VOL. I.

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kept me here in a little room, and helped to maintain me out of his little wages. But, Sir, last year, as the doctor and his family were coming up to town, and my fon (as was his duty) attending them on horseback, the roads were very bad, and the coach got into a deep rut; it would certainly have been overturned, Sir, had not my fon, who was a strong and active young man, jumped off his horfe, and fupported its whole weight. He faved it from falling till the other fervants came up, and got it out of the rut; but he strained something inwardly, for he fell fick immediately, and, after languishing four months, died in the hospital, where Doctor Porpoise recommended him. Ever fince that time, Sir, I have been in want. I was obliged to pawn my little clothes for fupport; I could no longer pay the rent of my room; and when I had nothing left to pawn, I thould have perished for want, but for the kindness of Doctor Porpoise's servants, who all of them loved my fon, and for his fake give me every day through the rails the scraps of broken meat from their table; and fometimes, when the weather is very cold, the coachman lets me lie in the stable, where the warmth of the cat-'tle comforts me." " Did you ever represent your case to the doctor, and does he know you are the mother of his groom?" "O yes, Sir! -he paid me what was due of his wages, which was but a very little; but he never would do any thing more." O merciful Saviour of the world!" faid Ned, " is this man a teacher of thy religion, and does he prefume to call himself by that name? Have you any friend living in the county of Cork?" "Yes, Sir," faid the, " I have a brother, who, though a poor man, would, I believe, help me if I could get

get to him; but alas! Sir, it is fo far off, I never could be able to walk it; and all that I can make by begging will not redeem my little clothes and carry me there." " How much will redeem your clothes?" faid he. "Ten shillings, Sir," faid she. " And how much would carry you to Cork?" About five more, I believe." "Here, faid he, " are two guineas. Go to your brother, and be happy." The poor aftenished creature would have thrown herself upon her knees; but he left her instantly, to spare her emotions, and to hide his own.

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## CHAP, XXV.

" Mangained Sas " princed there is on their

bloom he for many because he are the co-LE walked for above an hour in the green before his friend arrived. Captain Rivers then proposed to him to go bespeak his regimentals, and afterwards to take a view of the college. When they came to the end of Grafton-street, he was ftruck with admiration at the magnificent colonnade which forms the front of the parliament house, and which surpasses every thing of its kind in being. Yet he thought there was some awkwardness about the roof, and that if a balustrade, with statues, had been added to it, it would have confiderably increased its beauty. He was charmed with the noble front of the univerfity, which is built in the finest taste, and every way suited to the dignity of that diffinguished feat of learning. He could not help regretting, however, the want of a third building opposite the parliament-house, which would have completed three fides, and which, if ever fuch a thing shall be erected, will make College-green surpassingly beautiful. Neither could he conceal his indignation at the vile watch-house shouldering King William's statue, and which he was astonished the inhabitants would fuffer to exist an hour. Nor did he much admire the statue itself, which he thought unworthy of the great hero it reprefented-and the horse in particular such a clumly brute,

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When he entered the college he was disappointed. The buildings within did not answer the expectation he had formed from those with-But it must be remembered they are not yet finished; and that their effect is hurt by many old buildings among them, which are intended to be taken down. The old hall and the chapel he condemned, as altogether unworthy of their fituation; but the new hall he thought a noble room, as he did also the new building opposite, which was then erecting; but he execrated the paltry taste of its internal ornaments, which he pronounced were only proper for a stucco-shop. From hence they went to the library, the vast extent of which first struck his imagination; but when he had leifure to contemplate its just proportion, its excellent contrivance, and the exquisite beauty of its architecture, he was loft in admiration. How did he then lament the fordid parfimony of those who built it—who, to lave a few pounds, made use of stone which had nothing to recommend it but its being got upon their own estate, and which, now yielding to the weather, is every where mouldering away; so that in a few years hence its incomparable beauty will be no more! From the library they went to the park, a pleafant and extensive field, ornamented with walks and shaded with full-grown trees, for the recreation of the students: the elegant little building called the printing-house there firnes his eye; but the press not being at work, he could not get in. The anatomy-house, which is opposite, disgusted by its meanness; and not having much defire to examine its contents, though some of them are very valuable and curious in their kind, mi no caso so the court in the factor when

he paffed it by unnoticed. They continued their walk to the end of the park; when Captain Rivers having a key to the door which opens into Park-street, they passed through it, and in a few minutes afterwards found them-

felves at home.

When they enquired about Lord Rivers, they were informed he was gone to the house, but that he intended being home to dinner. They now went to drefs, it being between three and four o'clock; and when this important business was ended, Ned went down to the drawing room, to contemplate in fecret the charming picture with which he had been fo much captivated the day before. He had been feafting his eyes for some time, when he was joined by Captain Rivers; and foon after his lordship arrived, bringing with him a friend, a member of parliament, whom Ned had never feen before. The first view he had of this gentleman struck him with veneration: his person was of the largest of what is called middle fize, but adorned by a just proportion, and a manly grace, which made it perfectly genteel: his countenance was pleafing, though it could not be called handsome; for his complexion was rather of the darkest; but an inestable benignity beamed from his eyes, which strongly expressed the fentiments of his foul. His mind, which from his earliest youth had been cultivated with the highest care, was a rich treasury of every thing which could adorn or exalt a man-the Mules were all his own-his poems, particularly those of the tender kind, which were written when he was but a youth, were among the best, if not absolutely the best that ever were composed in any language. His judgment in painting was profound; and his execution in that elegant art (taught

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(taught him only by nature) was almost equal to his judgment. He did not sing, though his voice was melodious; but when he spoke, the power of his eloquence was irresistible:—it did not overbear you like a torrent; but it fell like the dews of heaven; it penetrated to the heart, where it at once convinced the understanding, and captivated the soul.—But great as were the powers of his mind, the virtues of his heart were still greater. His devotion was warm, without being superstitious—his morals were pure, without being austere—his benevolence was bounded only by the creation—and he fell short

of being perfect only by being human.

Such was the man to whom Ned was now in-To describe the evening which he passed in his society, exceeds all the powers of my pen. The impression which it made on his mind will never be worn out, while memory holds her feat: happy that he once law him; unhappy only in this, that he never faw him again; for, alas! how shall I relate it? this exalted character is no more. Soon after this, whilst yet in the prime of life, he rose to the dignity of a chief judge: but in the very moment of his exaltation he received a wound, which, to a heart like his, was incurable. The partner of his foul was taken from him; and with her perished all his joys. From this moment he declined: not in the powers of his mind, for these were transcendent to the last; and all his conduct as a judge was equal to what the world expected:—but the pillars of his constitution were shaken, and could not long sustain the weight of that affliction with which he was fecretly confumed.

Whilst engaged in the discharge of his duty, administering justice in a remote part of the

kingdom.

kingdom, he sickened, and in a few days expired. The effusion of heart-felt forrow which was poured upon his tomb exceeded what was ever shed for man before. His body is in the grave embalmed by the tears of his country! His memory and his same will live for ever!

Oh spirit of the immortal Burgh! who are not lost, but only translated to thy native heaven; look down from thy empyrean mansion, and behold thy weeping country—be still its guardian angel—drop to us thy mantle of impregnable integrity, and impart with it some portion of thy transcendent worth!

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[We have given this Chapter to our Readers, agreeable to the London Edition, not thinking ourselves at Liberty to vary in the smallest Particular from the Author. We think, however, that he is rather severe in some of his Criticisms, and unjust in others; but it must be recollected, that his Scene is laid some Years back, and that Dublin hath since been greatly improved. The Watchhouse he complains of, as disgracing King William's Statue, no longer exists; but in its Place a handsome Fountain has been erected. With respect to the King's Horse, we do not think it is a clumly Brute, but a just representation of what it was designed for, a Charger or War-Horse, besitting the great Monarch who so gracefully bestrides it.]

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## CHAP. XXVI.

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A HE conversation of men of acknowledged virtue usually leaves an impression on every ingenuous mind, that does not speedily wear out; nor would it be possible for the most profligate character, while he retained any fense or judgment at all, to be often in the company of fuch without improving his morals, and in the end perhaps becoming a profelyte to that virtue which wants only to be known, to be adored. Lord Rivers was far from being abandoned, though deeply immerfed in fashionable diffipations: his honour was unimpeached; and though his fentiments on religion were not clear, or determined, yet he never went into the monstrous impiety of blaspheming the object of it, nor, where he had any controul, permitted it to be ridiculed in his presence: his morals too, though not firictly evangelical, were however fuch as did not diffrace him in the eye of the public; nor would the most orthodox bishop have refused him for a son-in-law, had he done his daughter the honour to address her. The sentiments of the exalted character with whom he spent the last evening sunk deep into his heart, and had already elevated his mind fo far that he could not immediately relish the society at his club, and he actually entertained thoughts of withdrawing from it altogether. His constitu-L3 h how tion

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tion too began to feel the good effects of his abstaining from it; for, as he now kept more regular hours, his spirits and his appetite returned. Instead of going to bed at four or five in the morning, he now proposed to rise at that hour, and to take Ned with him in his phaeton, and make a little tour through those beautiful parts of the counties of Dublin and Wicklow, which lie in the neighbourhood of the metropolis. Captain kivers was to accompany them on horseback. They set out for the Dargle at about five a'clock in the morning, and Lord Rivers had the pleafure to fee the fun rife for the first time since he was a school-boy. The novelty of this objects had a wonderful effect upon his spirits, though the Captain and Ned, to whom it was more familiar, felt nothing extraordinary, except the whetting of their appetite by the keennels of the morning air, in which fenfation his lordship also partook, and experienced for the first time in his recollection how excellent a fauce is hunger. They arrived at a little village about eight, for they went purposely a circuitous road; and here his lordthip found fuch tea, butter and bread, as he was aftonished the metropolis could not afford; but which was indeed indebted for its fuperion excellence entirely to his ride.—From hence they got to the Dargie about ten: the feafon was not yet fufficiently advanced to shew this charming dell in its full beauty; though perhaps what it wanted in the richness and variety of its foliage was more than made amends for by the reduadance of its water. I For the brook which murmurs through it in the fummer, was now a torrent, tumbling over the rocks with irrelifible rage, and roaring among the caverns, from whence

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whence it fent up a foamy mist, which marked its course, and gave a hoary majesty to the awful precipices that frowned above it. Though Ned was accustomed to the grandest views of nature in his own country, yet he could not help being struck with the noble scenery of the Dargle, which, adorned by the elegant taste of its proprietor, unites the beautiful to the sub-lime.

They passed a couple of hours here with the highest satisfaction, and then proceeded through the sweet village of Tinnehinch to Powerscourt. Here a new scene presented itself:-The river, which was fwollen by the late rains, tumbled from its lofty bed down a perpendicular rock 300 feet high, and exhibited to the eye a torrent whiter than fnow, and crumbled as it were into powder by the refistance of the air, from the great height from which it fell-it precipitated itself with such force from the precipice, that a herd of deer, which were just then roused from the neighbouring forests, passed safe between the torrent and the rock from which it fell. Had Louis the XIVth beheld this scene he would have been alhamed of those ridiculous waterworks which cost him such enormous sums to raife at Versailles, and which none but children and French courtiers can admire; he would have despised the tawdry ornaments of his gardens, and gladly exchanged his palace for this. park.

After a charming ride of four hours, during which they were entertained with a variety of noble objects, they returned to Tinnehineh to dinner, where they regaled themselves on mountain mutton not inferior to that of Wales. In the evening they set forward for the town.

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poor cottager informed them there was one Mr. Grainger in the neighbourhood, who rented a little farm, and was very good to all the poor people near him; but he lived entirely alone, excepting his daughter and one fervant, and never visited any company. As necessity has no law, they determined to make trial of his hospitality, and to leave the servants and horses together with the broken phaeton where they were, until they should know whether they could be received or not at Mr. Grainger's; and in case they could not, they determined to ride the horses bare-backed to Tinnehinch, and leave the carriage in the road till the morning.

They now fet forward to Mr. Grainger's, under the conduct of the poor man who had informed them of him: it was not above a quarter of a mile to the house, but the way was so intricate through the mazes of a thick wood, in which it was embosomed, that they thought, if it even had been day, they never could have found it out without the help of a guide. At last the barking of a dog, and the glimmering of a light through the trees, informed them they approached it. A little Chinese paling Ropped their way, and the fragrance of some wall-flowers, and other early bloffoms which were exhaling their odours to the nightly dew, refreshed their fenses, and gave them no unjust opinion of the benevolence of the person they were going to vifit. They knocked gently at the door, which was opened by Mr. Grainger himself, who, hearing their distress, affured them they should be most heartily welcome to whatever his house could afford; which however, he faid, he was obliged to confess, was litthe more than shelter from the night air, and plainer

plainer fare than he believed from their appearance they were accustomed to. He ordered the cottager too to bring the horses and servants to the house, but the phaeton was obliged to be left

where it was till the morning.

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Mr. Grainger now conducted his guests into a little parlour, which was a miniature model of perfect elegance. The walls were papered with a pale blue paper, divided into twelve compartments; on which were painted as many oval landscapes, representing the twelve months of the year, each furrounded with a wreath of fruits and flowers, exquifitely coloured from nature, and adapted to the month to which it belonged; the whole feemed fuspended from the ceiling by a running festoon. The perfect cleanliness of the room, and the cheerful blaze of a wood fire, which had been newly heaped on, gave an air of comfort to the whole that was not to be furpassed:-but the brightest ornament of this elegant little apartment was the artist who contrived and executed it, and who was no other than Mr. Grainger's daughter. She rose up from a settee. whereon she was fitting, when the gentlemen entered; and displayed the most elegant figure, added to the most beautiful countenance, rendered still more charming by an air of deep miffortune that was diffused over it. She was dreffed in white cambrick trimmed with black gauze; and at her feet was a little boy with the countenance of a cherubim, about three years old. All the gentlemen were struck with nearly the fame feelings when they beheld her:-they law she was unhappy, and that alone was fuffic cient to make her venerable in their eyes; but then her grief was impressed upon such lovely features, as interested them deeply in her forrows, trade Par

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rows, and filled them at once with tenderness and respect. As Mr. Grainger however did not introduce her to them, they only bowed to her as they entered, and paffed to their places by the fire-fide. They were not long feated when the little boy ran to Ned, and, looking up to his face with a fmile that might become an angel, asked him to take him on his knee.-Mr. Grainger would have prevented him from being troublesome; but Ned, whose heart was ever open to tender fensations, begged he might be permitted to keep him; and, taking the child in his arms, he pressed him to his bosom and kisfed him, which the infant as eagerly returned, clasping his little arms about his neck. The irresistible attraction of artless innocence would have won a far less affectionate heart than Edward's; but in his they funk so deep as made an impression hardly ever to be erased, and filled him with a paffion for the child which could only be exceeded by that of a parent. Mr. Grainger now asked the gentlemen if they could like a dish of tea; " for I frankly confess to faid he, " I never drink wine, and there is not a drop in the house." They all declared that it would be no disappointment to them, and they should prefer tea though the wine were in their option. "Then, Nancy, my dear," faid he to his daughter, "you will be fo good as to get us some." "Yes, surely, fir," said " immediately." She then rose to go about it; when turning to the child, "Come, Charles," faid the, "my dear, will you come along with me, and do not trouble the gentleman any longer?" " No, mamma," replied the child, " if you will let me stay on this gentleman's knee, I will promise not to be trouble-

Ned now joined in the request, which she immediately complied with, and retired. A filence of a few minutes now enfued-when Lord Rivers fixing his eye on Mr. Grainger, "I am fure," faid he, "Mr. Grainger, I have had the happiness of knowing you before -though it is fo many years fince, that I must be grown out of your recollection." " I protest, fir," faid Mr. Grainger, " it is very poffible; but I do not recollect ever having had that honour." "I remember," faid his lordship, " fourteen years ago, when I was a little boy, to have had the pleasure of feeing you at Mr. Donellan's, when you and I were the only two, except the huntiman, that were in at the death of a hare." " Blefs me !" faid Mr. Grainger, " are you Lord Rivers, eldest fon to the Earl of Ravensdale?"-" Yes, indeed," faid his lordship; " I am the very man, and this is my brother, (introducing the captain); and this is Mr. Evans, a gentleman from Wales, whom I love and respect as a brother, though I have but very lately had the pleafure of his acquaintance." "Then I affure your lordship," faid Mr. Grainger, " there are no three gentlemen in the kingdom, that I should be happier to fee in this house; for I love and honour your father, and have many perfonal and great obligations to him." "But what in the world," faid Lord Rivers, " has brought you to this fequestered spot? and why do you bury yourself in this folitude, and fuffer your lovely daughter to consume her days in a hermitage?"

"Infandum jubes renovare delorem," faid Mr. Grainger; "but I will tell you all."—The teathings now coming in, put an end to the difcourse, and here we will also put an end to the

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## CHAP. XXVII.

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HOUGH the conversation at tea-tables has seldom any thing to recommend it, and is even too often liable to the just censure of being uncharitable as well as stupid, yet we can assure the reader this tea-table was an exception, and that nothing passed at it inconsistent with the purest sentiments of religion, and the most consummate elegance of manners. When the things were removed the lady retired, and gave Mr. Grainger an opportunity of gratifying Lord Rivers's curiosity in the following words.

"The deep misfortune of my life, of which your lordship seems ignorant, though the world has long fince been in possession of it, and which has compelled me to bury myfelf in these shades, was in its own nature fo afflicting, and embittered by so many fatal consequences, that if my life had not been necessary for the protection of that dear innocent victim who has just now left the room, I doubt whether philosophy, or even religion itself, would have been able to restrain my hands from doing violence to myself. At the time your lordship remembers to have seen me at Mr. Donellan's, there was not in the kingdom a man more difengaged, from forrow, nor more contented with his fituation than myfelf. Easy in my curcumstances, blest in the affection of the best of wives, happy in the growing virtues of my children, beloved by my neigh-

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neighbours, at peace with all the world, and with myfelf; my hours feemed winged with down, and imagination could hardly suggest a wish, the accomplishment of which could really increase my happiness. But in the midst of life we are in death; and it is not given to mortals to drink the cup of joy unmixed. The bitter ingredients with which mine was dathed, derived additional acrimony from my not being accustomed to them. My little estate, which had descended to me from many ancestors, was about 300l. of yearly value: it was feated in one of the loveliest spots that nature in these climates can produce; and as we had always farmed it ourfelves, it had received from art those gentle affistances which serve to embellish nature without disguising her, and was universally allowed to be a model of rural neatness and simplicity. In this happy abode of peace and tranquillity I lived fupremely bleft, with my wife, my daughter, and my fon; and oh! might still have lived, if a viper whom I had taken into my bofom had not stung me to death." "Who could that wretch be?" interrupted Lord Rivers. "Your lordship knows him too well," replied Mr. Grainger; " or rather you do not know him, or I am perfuaded you would not acknowledge his acquaintance.—It was young Nettlefield, of Nettlepark, near your lordship's estate." " What! Jack Nettlefield?" faid his lordship—You surprise me!—I thought him an honest fellow as any in the kingdom, and very much of a gentleman." " He has indeed some of the qualities, faid Mr. Grainger, "which form part of the composition of a modern fine gentleman, but which, however they may be thought of in the world, are in reality the difgrace of human nature, and more pernicious to lociety

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fociety by a thousand degrees than many of those crimes for which we daily hang the The petty wretches who perpetrate them. thief, who steals my sheep, is condemned to the gallows; -but the villain who has hereaved me of my wife-who has robbed my daughter of her honour, and my fon of his life-who has torn from me all that I held dear in nature, and repaid my kindness with this base ingratitudefill lives carefled by the world, and even honoured with a commission from his fovereign." "Good God! you amaze me!" faid Lord Rivers; "I never heard of this before." "Your lordship was on your travels," said Mr. Grainger, " when it happened; and I am not of consequence enough to be the subject of converfation beyond the circle of my own friends. It is now five years fince Mr. Nettlefield, who had just then got his first commission, came down with a party of his regiment, and was quartered in a country town in my neighbourhood. I always made a point of shewing every civility in my power to the gentlemen of the army, and never had occasion to repent of my hospitality to any stranger but himself. I asked him to my house, and he was often there, both alone and also with the other gentlemen of his corps. For a long time I confidered him as a very agreeable and amiable young man; till a nearer acquaintance, brought on by an act of kindness of my own, developed his whole character, and plunged me into irremediable grief, which can ceafe only in the grave.

"He had been one day dining with me, along with fome other gentlemen in the neighbourhood; when returning to his quarters in the evening, he was arrested within a quarter of a mile of my house, for a debt of 30l, at the suit

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fuit of a taylor in Dublin. I very foon heard of it; for they carried him to a little ale-house hard by, by way of a spunging-house; and from thence word was immediately brought to me. I was forry fuch an affront should be offered to him to near my own doors, and from which he had fo lately parted, and I waited on him directly; when I found means to rescue him from the harpies of the law, by paying part of the debt, and joining with him as a fecurity for the remainder: and this difagreeable bufinels being over, I carried him back to my house, and invited him to stay there till he wrote to his father, and got some remittances from him to pay his debts and fet him on his legs again.

"In the mean time my fon came from the college to pass the long vacation: he had been there three years, where I intended to educate him for the church; and was then in his twentieth year—not above a year younger than Nettlefield himself. The two young men were delighted with each other; and as Nettlefield had all the manners of a man of fashion, and many of their accomplishments too, I was unhappily pleased with the connection, thinking it would polish that rusticity in my son which a country education had caused; and which could hardly be corrected in the learned retirement of the

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"About three weeks elapsed before Mr. Nettlefield heard from his father. During all this time he behaved with such delicate attention to my wife and daughter, such manly freedom to myself, such openness and attachment to my son, that he established himself in the good graces of all the samily. He repaid me the money I had advanced for him, and received in re-

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turn a cordial and general invitation to my house. As your lordship is acquainted with him, you need not be told that he is handsome in his perfon, and that among his accomplishments may be reckoned a perfect knowledge in music, and a very correct tafte for drawing. My poor girl, whom you have feen here this evening, was enthusiastically fond of both these amusements, and never feemed fo happy as when Mr. Nettlefield came to the house, that she might benefit by his critical knowledge and indisputable excellence in both of them; nor did he lose so good an opportunity of recommending himself to the favour of a beautiful girl. He spent hours with her, but always in the company of her mother, forming her taste, correcting her drawings, praising her talents, and paying her on every occasion the most assiduous attention and respect. As my wife was constantly present whenever they were together, I had not the smallest apprehension on that account; and if Mr. Nettlefield felt an honourable paffion for my daughter, I hardly knew a young man I should have more willingly bestowed her on; as I had the best opinion both of his head and heart, and knew that his fortune, on his father's death, would be equal to any thing that I could give with my daughter. I perceived therefore their mutual attachment without uneafiness; and it helped to endear the young man to me still more. My wife too had conceived for him the warmest affection; and fo successfully had he paid his court to her, that I believe she would rather have given him her daughter, than to any peer in the three kingdoms.

"At length Mr. Nettlefield broke the affair to me; when I told him, that if his father and mother gave their consent, and would give him as a fente to of all the I con us;

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im uia fuitable present maintenance, I should have no objection; but unless that was the case, it would be highly imprudent in both parties, and what I could never agree to. He acquiefced in all this, and was from that time received as an intended fon-in-law. To this time I believe he was fincere; and had his father agreed to the match, perhaps all had been well:-but the old gentleman would not advance a shilling beyond his pay, and moreover bade him aspire to larger fortunes and nobler connections. When he disclosed this to me, he seemed overwhelmed with affliction; but urged me to confent to his union notwithstanding; declaring his passion to be unalterable, that his love would beget prudence, that he had enough to fatisfy prefent wants, and that his father could not prevent his fucceeding to his fortune whenever Heaven should be so indulgent as to take him away. I sharply reprimanded him for this last speech—so undutiful in a son-and so devoid, as I thought, of every feeling of natural affection; and I affured him, that as I never could approve of flealing a man's child myself, so I never would be acceffary to it in another, nor fuffer my daughter to intrude into any family without the confent and unequivocal defire of the heads of

"He submitted in appearance to my determination; but desired to be still received as my friend, if I would not permit him to continue as a lover. To this I very imprudently consented; though, as he had never done any thing to offend me, but on the contrary had paid us all the utmost attention, I hardly think yet that I could with propriety have resulted him.

"As a friend therefore he continued to visit us; but, oh! how he abused this facred name

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you shall hear. His attachment, or rather his pretended attachment, to my daughter still continued; but he had art enough to put on a diftance of behaviour before me, to make me suppose he had dropped all thoughts of her, at least for the present; and the more effectually to blind me, his visits became less frequent. though his open attentions were lefs, his fecret affiduities were doubled; and having completely gained the affections of my daughter, he had the address to gain her mother also to his party; and the, swayed by the entreaties of her poor child, to whom the could refuse nothing, relying upon his honour, and knowing that I myself had a good opinion of him, most imprudently, and most unhappily, consented to a private marriage between them; which she fanctioned by her presence, and which was celebrated by a Popish priest since gone abroad. To cut short this unhappy story, which I never think of but it harrows up my foul, and to spare your lordthip the fatigue of liftening to to melancholy a detail, you must suppose every thing unfortunate to follow. In a few months he went home to his father's, leaving my daughter pregnant of the little boy you faw here this evening. had there the baseness to deny his marriage; which being folemnized by a Popish priest, is not, I believe, strictly legal by the laws of this country. My fon, who could not brook the indignity offered to his fifter, flew to revenge the infult, and challenged him to the field. Even in the base soul of Nettlefield courage is not wanting: he accepted the challenge, and tkill prevailed over justice; for my generous and gallant boy, the pride of my life, and whom I hoped to be the staff of my age, fell by the first fire. My daughter went distracted. Such complicated 115

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plicated miseries were too much for a parent's heart to bear. My poor wife funk under them; the blamed herfelf for all her misfortunes, called herfelf the murderess of her son; and giving up entirely to an unavailing but too just a forrow, it brought on a paralytic stroke, which finally relieved her from all afflictions. At the time of my wife's death my daughter was in the delirium of a raging fever, into which the fell upon hearing her poor brother's fate-and it was four months before the recovered the use of her rea-She was then delivered of a fon, who, strange to tell, was then as fine an infant, and continues to be fo, as is any where to be feen. The maternal feelings, which Nature for the wisest purposes has planted in every female heart, foftened the afflictions of my unhappy daughter, by dividing her cares; and when I beheld the little innocent in her arms, the nerves of my heart vibrated, and I could not help pitying the child of mifery, though it was Nettlefield's. Though it was his, it was yet my daughter's also; and, all unconscious of its father's crimes, was itself doomed to suffer by his villainies. took it therefore to my bolom; and, as far as his tender age will allow, he repays my kindness with gratitude and affection. As foon as my daughter recovered, I resolved to quit for ever a place which had been the scene of so many afflictions, and which, fince the death of my ton, had loft the attractions it formerly had for me; neither could I bear the coldness and neglect with which I perceived some of the ladies who had formerly been our friends, began to treat my poor girl."—"Good God!" inter-rupted Lord Rivers, "was any body cruel enough to neglect your daughter?" "Yes, indeed," faid Mr. Grainger, " many-the deli-VOL. I. M cacy

cacy of the female character shrinks before the fmallest breath of scandal, however undeferved." "True," faid Lord Rivers; "but where the heart has never erred, and where an innocent girl fell a prey to the art of a base villain, and neither did nor intended any ill, the women of virtue should have leagued in her defence; and, instead of affecting to shun her, they should have punished, with the most marked contempt, the wretch who took advantage of her inexperience, and not have broken the already bruifed reed."-" The world, my Lord," replied Mr. Grainger, " are in general fo felfish, that they commonly rejoice in the calamities of others; because of the favourable comparison it gives them an opportunity of making of themselves in their own exemption. The compassion therefore of most people is more mortifying, and even more malignant, than their hatred; and fuch indeed my poor daughter and I found it."-"I am forry for it," replied Lord Rivers; forry for your fake, and forry there should be so much depravity in the human heart: but I can fay this much, Mr. Grainger, that I am fo fensible of the worth and innocence of your daughter, and so enraged at the base indignity that has been offered her, that I can affure you of the protection of all my family; and that I am certain Lady Cecilia, my fifter, will joyfully contribute her endeavours to footh the forrows and avenge the cause of injured innocence."-" I know the goodness of all your family," replied Mr. Grainger; " and I am overwhelmed with gratitude for your Lordship's, generous and noble friendship. The world is loud in the praises of Lady Cecilia, and I am sensible that whosoever she honours with her countenance will be every where respected. But I fear

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con our diductio I fear it is too late. My poor girl's heart is broke. I know this world has no longer any allurements for her-her affections are now placed where they will never be again difappointed; and hastening, as she thinks, and as I do myself believe, to the mansions of eternity, I cannot wish to deaden her sublime ardour, or call back her defires to objects which she must foon leave, and from which she is already weaned."-" Pho, pho!" faid Lord Rivers; "these are the melancholy suggestions of your hermitage. Your daughter is an angel, but we will not let her return to her native skies till we see a little more of her. When we get her from these melancholy glooms to the cheerful scenes of Ravensdale, we will make her heart whole again; and I trust you have both of you many years yet before you of health and happiness."-" I thank you for your good wishes," faid Mr. Grainger; " but I can affure your lordship they are ineffectual. I submit indeed, as I ought, with all possible resignation to the chastening of my Maker; but as for happiness, it is not in the power of this world to give it me again."-" Well," faid Lord Rivers, "I hope otherwise; but in the mean time continue your flory, for I feel myself interested in whatever befalls you."—" I have scarce any thing to add," replied Mr. Grainger: "I grew miserable as I told you in the country, and refolved to retire from all scenes which could revive the memory of my misfortunes. I therefore fold my estate; and having paid off every debt I owed in the world, I placed the remainder out on government securities. Soon after, in looking for a country retirement, I happened on this little fpot; which being to be let, I immediately took it on a twenty one years leafe; four of.

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of which are now elapsed. I have a few acres of ground, which supply me with milk and butter; and a small garden, the dreffing of which is my only business out of doors. My daughter too feels a complacency in adorning it with shrubs and flowers; and whenever the weather permits, we unite our labours, and footh our forrows together. Music and drawing, together with the necessary attention to her little boy, employ her hours within, except those she confecrates to devotion; and thefe are a large portion of her time. Thus, my lord, I have told you my whole story. Few and evil have the days of our years been; but we look forward to the time when all tears shall be wiped from our eyes, and we wait for it with patience and with hope. In the mean time the most pleasing circomstance that has ever occurred to me fince I came to this retreat, is the honour of feeing your lordship and these gentlemen here; and I beg of you to let my fincerity in this declaration make amends for the indifference of the entertainment I have to give you."

The gentlemen all expressed the warmest fense of Mr. Grainger's politeness and hospitality; they were glad of the accident which had made them acquainted; they were sincerely interested in the affecting narrative they had just heard; in several passages of which, poor Ned had testified the quickness of his feelings, by that suffusion of countenance which the lively emotions of pity and resentment had alternately and visibly produced. Mr. Grainger had perceived how much he was affected; from which circumstance, and his great attention to little Charles, he had already conceived a warm prepossession in his favour. The rest of the evening

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ing was spent in a general and animated conver-Mrs. Nettlefield, or Miss Grainger, whichever the reader pleases to call her, did not again make her appearance. She fent in to them, however, a small but elegant repast about ten o'clock; and before twelve they all retited to their repose.

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## CHAP. XXVIII.

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HE affecting narrative, however, which Ned had just heard; the innocence, the beauty, and the misfortunes of the lovely girl who was the subject of it, sunk deep into his mind, and for a long time banished sleep from his eyes. "Good heavens!" he cried, " can merciful Providence preside over this world, and suffer fuch villainy to go unpunished? Shall the virtuous and the meek fink under the rod of the oppreffor, and shall there be no after-reckoning to set these errors right ?- Impossible! Truth is immutable, and virtue must at last be happy. Verily therefore there is a reward for the righteous-doubtless there is a God that judgeth 'the earth.' Had the heart of this young man been difengaged, the lovely mourner whose forrows he bewailed had certainly taken possession of it: as it was, he gave her all he had to beflow. He gave her pity in an unbounded effufion; but for its fifter, love, the purity of his foul could know but one object, and from her he never swerved. To her then he refigned his thoughts; and kiffing the locket, which by night and by day was the infeparable companion of his bosom, he gave himself up to the pleasing contemplation of the charming Cecilia, and to the fweet hope that ere long he should actually behold those beauties which were scarce ever absent from his imagination. Sleep, who is in

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vain invoked by the unhappy, comes unasked to the cheerful and serene. The placid soul of Edward was a residence suited to the tranquil deity; and he took sull possession of it till the morning sun, and little Charles tickling him

with a straw, dissolved his power.

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Ned fprung from the couch on which he had been fleeping (for the house did not afford beds for them all), and took his little favourite into the garden. It was neatness itself, adorned by the elegant taste of her who presided over it; and brought to his recollection the little peaceful dwelling where all his days had flown. The heart of Edward was true to duty as well as to love-and, though an officer, he did not disdain to pray. He retired into an arbour, with the cherub Charles in his hand; and bending his knees to Him before whom every knee should bow, he presented a spectacle worthy the eye of Heaven to behold. He remembered his Creator in the days of his youth; and forgot not in his petitions either his father or his mother, his friend or his mistress—the afflicted mourner for whose sufferings he was grieved, nor the little innocent whom he held in his hand. Smile, ye gay! laugh, ye profligate and profane! ye who know not the fublime and rapturous enjoyment of devotion! Yet when the evil days come, and the years draw nigh which shall have no pleafure in them; then will you feel the want of that friend who alone can footh the infirmities of age, or make foft the pillow of the bed of death:—then will you deplore the folly that never could discern your real interest.

Ned now returned to the house, and little Charles with him. That sweet infant had taken an unaccountable attachment to him, which on his part was sincerely returned; nor

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was either Mr. Grainger or his daughter unaffected with the tender fensibility he shewed both for them and the child. It was with pain they saw the hour arrive when their amiable visitors were to part: nor did Ned take his farewell kiss of little Charles without mingling a manly tear with those infant drops which plentifully bedewed his little cheeks. He took him in his arms, and deposited him in those of his mother, vowing at the same time never to forget either their kindness or their missortunes. The phaeton having been repaired by a blacksmith, Lord Rivers and his company took leave of Mr. Grainger, and, without any further accident, they

all arrived fafe in town.

When Ned went up to his room, he ordered David Morgan to be fent to him; but great was his diffress when he was told that poor fellow. lay fenfeless in his bed, unable to move, and very unlikely ever to rife again. Had David been only a common fervant, the heart of Edward would have been warmly interested in his fate; but he had been the playfellow of his childhood, and often the companion of his sports fince they grew to be men. He was his countryman in a strange land; and he had left his home, and his father's house, from a generous attachment to share the dangers and follow the fortunes of his young master. These were connections that interested Ned more nearly in his behalf, and which made him confider him rather in the light of a friend than of a fervant, He hastened therefore to his bed-side, to know the cause of his distress, and to pour every balm into his wounds that they would admit of. When he faw him, he found they were indeed wounds, and that his illness was the effect of ill nfage. Aftonished at this discovery, he immediately

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diately went to Lord Rivers; and the fervants being furmoned, the following flory came out: One of the footmen, who it feems liked his pleafures as well as his betters, took advantage of my lord's absence, to spend an evening with fome others of his fraternity in company with their girls. They made choice, for this purpole, of one of those infamously convenient houses, which, to the disgrace of all government, are suffered to exist in every capital in Europe. Poor David was asked to be of the party; and his passions being stronger than his discretion, he very readily consented. friend undertook to provide him with a partner, who was to give him her hand in the dance, and whatever elfe he might require into the bargain. After passing some hours with the accustomed licentiousness of those places, the whole company fat down to supper, where the flow of their spirits was greatly exhibitrated by copious and fuccessive bowls of whisky punch. The fon of St. David would not be outdone by any of the descendants of St. Patrick, nor did the ladies themselves decline engaging in the contest, being equally the votaries of Bacchus and Venus. It is possible, however, they might have passed the evening without any milunderstanding, had not fome new comers joined them when they were pretty far advanced towards general intoication. One of thefe, a rough and overbearing fellow, happened to have fome previous acquaintance with David's dulcinea, and, with his usual impudence, challenged her as his wifd. David was not to simple as to be imposed on by this flory, not fo timid as patiently to forego the amulement he was meditating, especially as the girl herfelf feemed unwilling to part with

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him, being in truth by far the more agreeable figure of the two: so that after some vollies of oaths and execrations, they came to more destructive weapons; and now discord took full possession of those hearts which so shortly before feemed perfectly united; and reason being delivered over to the custody of whisky, passion assumed her place, and a general contest arose without any being very clear upon what account.

If I could possibly imagine that any of my readers could be entertained with a detail of circumstances so brutal and so disgusting as now enfued, I might describe a battle of no common kind; but passing by the prowess of the inferior combatans. I shall only take notice of the unfortunate Morgan who defended his right with aftonishing vigour and resolution for a length of time, confidering how much diquor he had drunk; till at length the ruffian with whom he was engaged, contrary to all rules of boxing, took up the candlestick, which unhappily flood too near him, and with a violent blow on the head laid poor David fenfelefs at his feet. The woman cried Murder and this awful word at once produced filence and the return of their fenfes. The young fellow who had feduced David into this company was sufficiently terrified at its confequences to become perfectly fober. He believed him actually dead; and, from the fize of the wound, and the great effusion of blood, there was the greatest reason to believe that he foon would be fo, if he was not fo already. The villain who had perpetrated the act was of the fame opinion, and thought it was full time for him to decamp. The whole company broke up: but Patrick, my lord's footman, 2019年

man, who was the original cause of the catastrophe, had generosity enough to remain with the body of David, and swore he would never leave it though it should bring him to the gallows. At length, however, they discovered that David was not dead; and then Patrick conveyed him in a sedan chair to Lord Rivers's, where he was put to bed, and where he attended

him with all the anxiety of a brother.

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Lord Rivers was exceedingly distressed by this accident. His refentment role chiefly against Patrick, whom he ordered into his presence-"Thou profligate scoundrel!" faid he, "how dare you prefume to go to your odious meetings, and to feduce the fervant of my friend to be of your infamous party?"-" My lord," replied Patrick, "I did nothing but what your lordthip does yourfelf every night. If your lordship took the master to your meetings, where the company is not always lober, I law no great harm-in taking the man to mine; neither do I fee any great difference between one whore and another, or between being drunk with champagne or whisky punch." Rage and astonish ment were visibly impressed upon his fordship's countenance—but conscience and realon got the better, and his pathon immediately lublided Patrick," faid he calmly, " you are right. You have given me a piece of instruction that I hope I shall be the better for all my days. Here are five guineas for it, which it is well worth: but in the mean time I must tell your have no more occasion for your fervice. Call to-morrow, and you shall be paid your wages; but let me never see you afterwards unless I tend for you." Poor Patrick, who loved his lordship, would have apologized, and was very unwilling

willing to take the five guineas; but Lord Rivers was inexorable. He ordered him immediately out of his presence, so that he was forced to go and comfort himself as well as he could with his fee, for the loss of a good place by his in-

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discretion. The talk of health His remark, however, made a deeper impression upon his lordship than the declamation of a hundred fermons. He could not fail to be struck with its force and truth, and sincerely to lament that his example had spread the contagion of vice to an extent that he little thought or was aware of. So circumspect should the great ever be, in whose power it is to reform or corrupt a world. In the mean time no trouble or expence were spared to recover poor David, and to fecure the villain who had given him the wound. Patrick was very inftrumental in this; he did not know the man, but he was well acquainted with the girl on whose account the fcuffle began. Lord Rivers himfelf condescended to go to the girl, and, by dint of bribes and promifes of protection, obtained from her the principal information, which was that his name was Reilly, and that he had been a imuggler out of the port of Rulb. She could not, or would not, tell where he flaid; but, by dint of a promile of a larger tum, the undertook to find him out and to betray hime of a sale of ovid woll

David remained in a very doubtful way: his fenses were to confused that he had no recollections and did not even know where he was. The furgeon apprehended his skull was fractured; but his head was fo fwelled that nothing scould be certainly affirmed, except that his life was in danger; and therefore a wantant was procured to apprehend the villain who gave the adlive

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blow. In a few nights information was given them by the girl, that Reilly was to fup with her that night; when about ten o'clock Lord Rivers and the Captain, together with Ned Evans, and some proper officers of justice. made their appearance in her apartment. aftonished Reilly was amazed—yet neither his courage nor his presence of mind forfook him. He did not attempt to make the least opposition, nor even to deny the fact. He faid he had no malice upon earth to David, whom he had never feen before; that he was forry he had been hurt, but that he struck him in his own defence. and that he was ready to go before any court in the world. He added that his character was well known; that he had but lately come to the kingdom, and that he could get many respectable people to vouch for his behaviour. Lord Rivers asked him his name, and where he lived? He faid his name was Patrick Reilly; that he dealt in horses, and usually lived in Chester, from whence he had lately come with some to this kingdom. At the name of Chester and of Patrick Reilly the aftonishment of Ned Evans was only equalled by his farisfaction. The trivial accident that happened to David was forgotten, and his transport was complete, when he beheld the detected murderer of Mrs. Mel ville in his power. Wondering within himself at the hidden mysteries of Providence, and grateful that he should in so surprising a manner be thus twice choice as the agent to bring this fecret villainy to light, he was filent for a mament; but foon exclaimed, " Ohl theu truel and perfidious villain! God, whom then haft offended, purfues thee with speedy vengeance, and entangles thee in thine own fnares. Thon knowest

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knowest me not; but know, villain! that I know thee, and all that belongs to thee. Was I not prefent when thy murderous hand difcharged the blunderbus into the carriage of two defenceless ladies on the road to Bangor, when one of them was killed? Think you that I do not know your master, Mr. Nicholson; and your deluded accomplice, Andrew Collins?"-Had the roof of the chamber cleft in twain, and thunder fallen from heaven into the room, the aftonishment of Reilly would have been less. When he furveyed Evans, he did not believe that he was human; he took him for some being fent purposely by the Almighty to confound him, and, without answering a word, dropped fenfeless at his feet. The amazement of the rest of the company was hardly less; and even when they were told the whole, though there was nothing out of the common road of nature in it, yet were they deeply impressed with awful. veneration of that Being whose eye can penetrate to the centre of creation, and whose power can over-rule all accidents to the ends of his Providence.

Reilly was now effectually secured, and delivered into the hands of the officers of justice. He was soon after transmitted to Conway, where Collins was allowed to turn king's evidence, and where he expiated on the gallows (as far as the death of such a miscreant could expiate) the various cruelties and crimes of his most wicked life. In the mean time poor David recovered: the wound was found only to be a contusion: and, being managed by a skilful hand, he was in a short time able to renew his usual occupations. He was not indeed quite so enamoured with Dublin as he had been at first, but he promised

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mifed to take better care both of his company and his morals; and confoled himself for his broken head, that it had been the means of discovering the villain Reilly, and that he could now claim some share with his master in the honour of that affair.

in succession of the property of the all the property of the second of the post of the post of the and an amid first entry A-much crossissings by has Trades borried ad to the second on Lad the to the to the first and a rest see that the dieds Ambanic Bong to book housestain unit with They even in the of the even have to be well to be had countries of the survey of the suit to the state of the survey of alelask in remain be assentenent auto (sig. 5d) Sec. he follows and be paid him a very hardisanst countlinters and the acceptant. I a votal arithmen near top of contagnators, and in the distinct for Property one on Language destruction about they as caree in company forces, everythe the the boomproper the it town mine out things in a second of man the particular interest and the first to be a training budget and pay order hand color receive it. deced, it seems therett were true to eath, bing a bleacty walcome, a herever had much smowneshilly was not ben't had a sile will all the contract time. Took year, with a few strandard of probat maker and the standing of the control of t who went from the less of a single and a state of their directly at faste on when bear the called have no CHAR middle deniced, and cerested, a vocant manual less ichle end wie le ven of an 18 mil wegt became a character of the inches and and representation of the property of the plantage of the property of the property

mifed to take a tree rate boiltner his commany and his month, and confold binder with boar I roke wheeler that is a divertified means of the some of the will be we still that he could

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ED's regimentals were now brought home, and he appeared in them for the first time at the Castle. He had the honour to be introduced to the Lord Lieutenant by Lord Rivers, and to thank his Excellency for the commission which he had bestowed upon him. The Viceroy was Bruck with the fingular beauty of his figure, and the graceful unembarraffed manner in which he spoke; and he paid him a very handsome compliment on the occasion. Several military men too of consequence, who were at the levee, took notice of him, and he found himself at once a conspicuous figure in the first company in the kingdom. Under the auspices of Lord Rivers indeed he had no difficulty in finding admittance into any circle; and being once introduced, his own merits were fure to gain him a hearty welcome wherever he was known. It was not only the ladies who admired him, for whom indeed he had irrefistible attractions, but the qualities of his mind were found not inferior to those of his person, and gained him the esteem of those on whom beauty could have no impression.

Thus admired and careffed, a young man of less sense and less strictness of education would have been in danger of being overrun with vanity, or overthrown by those seducing pleasures and then as his as at the different

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which fprung up every where under his feet :but Ned carried a guardian in his breast whom he was accustomed to obey. He attended to the whifpers of that divine monitor who refides within us, and who never deceives; and he walked fecure through all the temptations of the capital blameness. And how indeed could it be otherwise, when his earliest and his latest duty was to folicit the favour and the protection of his Maker, and when his heart was devoted to the loveliest object that ever engaged the affections of a man. In vain then did the Dublin beauties display their charms; in vain did pleasure affail him in a thousand forms: a virtuous passion filled his foul, which would not admit of any thing low or fordid coming in contact with it. And now the wished-for letters arrived from Lord Ravensdale, congratulating him on his arrival in Ireland, and containing a most cordial invitation to him to go down to the country :- an affectionate compliment from Lady Cecilia too was not forgotten; which infused new joy into his heart, and new brilliancy into his countenance; fo that hardly was there to be found a happier being in the kingdom, or one who more deferved to be fo. As the parliament was still fitting, Lord Rivers could not accompany him down; but his friend the Captain was ready to escort him, and the next morning was fixed on for their journey. If forrow is a banisher of fleep, joy is not less so; and never did night feem so tedious to Ned before.

At last it dawned—and, long before the sun himself arose, did Ned spring from his bed and prepare for this wished-for expedition. The Captain, who was not so eager, would not stir without his breakfast; and though eating was an amusement Ned relished as well as any body.

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yet he would have fasted a whole Lent rather than not get forward. At last they mounted, and with David and the captain's man bid adieu to Dublin, and left Lord Rivers in his first nap. As the domes and the spires of the metropolis withdrew, the spirits and the satisfaction of Ned increased: every step brought him nearer to the beloved of his foul, and every mile-stone that he counted was a new fource of transport to his bosom. Ravensdale however was not to be reached in one day, at least not without relays of horses, which those who travel in Ireland must not always expect to find. The country however was charming, and the alternate objects of splendour and of poverty, of neatness and flovenliness, which seem scattered so promiscuously over the face of it, served only to divert his fancy and afford new topics for his philosophy. " How easily is nature satisfied!" faid he, as he beheld fix naked children playing on a dunghill-not naked in rags, but naked as they were born-absolutely divested of all raiment whatfoever. They had however rofy cheeks and mirthful countenances; they laughed incontinently, and feemed to have no want of butter-milk and potatoes. The hovel in which they were born was built in a ditch, the gripe of which formed two sides of it; and the nuptial bed which produced them confifted of one blanket and a bundle of straw. The mother however was finging as the fat spinning on her wheel; and the father was gone to his labour in the demefne of a gentleman whole splendid palace now role upon the view, whose estate was at least full 20,000l. a year; and who, though married for half a century, had no child to inherit it; and the happiness of whose whole life was poiloned on that account. O equitable

Providence! who givest riches as seemeth best to thee, although divided in such partial measure; but who bestowest happiness with more equal hand—who hast seated it in the soul, and not made it absolutely to depend on any external

circumstance whatsoever!

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No accident of any note happened to them on their way:—the fecond day about eleven, the majestic front of Ravensdale shewed itself through furrounding trees. Embosomed within its turrets lay Edward's cynosure—but no cruel giant, or enchanted dragon, opposed his way. Wealth, honour, hospitality, possessed the dome; and beauty, innocence, and virtue, refided in it. Hail happy hour that conducts young Edward to the mansion of his adored Cecilia!-Behold he fees her! She comes herfelf, all elegant as the is, to meet him—She is now at home, and therefore frankness has banished form—She takes him by the hand; nay she offers him her ambrolial lips, and Edward tastes a blifs which would have overpaid an age of pain!

The old Lord was confined to his chair by the gout, but far from being a complaint, it was the cure of that disorder which he had had in Dublin. He received our hero, as the deliverer of his daughter, with affection, with admiration, with gratitude, and with all that complacency which every man must feel in the presence of an amiable and deferving fellow-creature, whom they have greatly obliged. Ned fancied himfelf in Elyfium; and indeed all that he had ever heard or read of that celebrated abode of happiness, fell short of what he felt. The Captain was but a fecondary figure in this group; and though his transports were less, yet his happinels was not little in having Ned for his guest; and the attentions which he paid him did equal honour

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to his heart, his tafte, his rank, and his education. A friendship indeed of the most tender and faithful kind began to take place between them. The Captain onfidered himfelf as his guardian and protector, because he was a subaltern in his own company; whilst Ned could not fail to love whatever was so near to Cecilia, although he had been less amiable than he really was. The parity of their years too (for there were only three between them) made the fame amusements pleasing to both; and the same goodness of heart united to the strongest natural understanding, which in both had received the addition of liberal education, gave taste to these amusements: so that hardly any two could have met more happily formed to pleafe each other, and the circumstances of whose meeting were more likely to bind them in the tender chains of coachdrain, bus indiffoluble friendthip.

The rank of Captain Rivers's family might indeed have contributed to keep Edward at a distance; but the nobility of Ireland have nothing of that seudal pride which is so disgusting and contemptible in most other nations. To splendid fortunes they unite the most liberal and condescending manners; and whoever has the education and behaviour of a gentleman, is ture to meet from them the frankest hospitality and

the most dignified attention, of the most dignified

Ravensdale was a mansion where the splendid and agreeable were happily united, and where every thing that is amiable presided over every thing that is noble. As a beautiful place it could hardly be surpassed in any country; and to describe it would require the powers of the pencil rather than the pen. The house was built by the first lord, in the reign of James the First of England, from a design of the celebrated Inigo Jones;

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lones; which is enough to let us know that it was at once magnificent and convenient. It was feated on a rifing ground, commanding a prospect of many miles over a rich and well-cultivated country, great part of which belonged to the noble earl himself. The celebrated Shannon, whose lordly tide might bear a navy on its bosom, wound round the demesne: when expanding itself into a lake, it formed a sheet of water full thirteen miles in length and half as much in breadth-in full prospect from the windows. The banks of this liquid mirror presented the richest and most diversified sceneryfometimes level lawns, the fertile pastures which feed the West-Indies, and all the navies of Europe—fometimes towering rocks, the inacceffible aeries of eagles and of hawks-fometimes groves, whose venerable shades embrowned the rocks, and feemed to grow downwards to the bottom of the lake; whilst the blue tops of the distant mountains melted among the clouds, or poared the golden rays of the fetting fun amid the purple shadows of the valleys. Towers were not wanting, the venerable remains of ruined monasteries; nor here and there the rifing smokes of cheerful cottages, while the homely meal is preparing for the labourer's supper. The cows low for the pail; the lambs bleat by their dams; the murmur of the village swells in the breeze, and infant voices laughing as they play, proclaim that all is harmony and peace around. Oh happy plains of plenty and of peace! you I no more revisit-yet shall the remembrance of you footh my wanderings; yet shall your prosperity be dearer to me than my own-dearer than the ruddy drops which still warm my heart, that never can cease to love you till it ceases to The gardens of Ravensdale also were fuitable to the grandeur of its situation and the opulence of its owner—they were laid out on the most extensive scale of modern improvement, on the models of those delightful farms which have long been the boast and admiration of England; where nature is embellished without being disguised, and all her native beauties called into view by the happy assistance of taste

and opulence. The state a out lighting

In these delicious groves, the hours of Edward were winged with happiness, whilst the transporting society of Lady Cecilia gave new charms to nature in his eyes, and made Paradife itself fink in them when compared to Ravensdale. Nor was its charming inhabitant lefs happy in the company of Edward: her chafte and gentle bosom loved him with a pure and holy passion; a generous sentiment with which fex had no connection, but which arose from fimilarity of tafte and years-from admiration of the noble and manly qualities of his heart and mind—and from a grateful fense of the protection and effential obligations she received from him. His figure indeed might also be pleasing in her eye, for it was impossible to behold him without feeling that prepoffession which beauty inspires; but his mind would have been lovely in any form, and to this and gratitude her prefent affection was wholly dedicated. Her amiable condescention now repaid the attention which Ned had shewn to her Ladyship when at his father's house; and the sweet walks and rides in which he attended her in Wales were here renewed, with this difference, that now there were always others in company; Captain Rivers or some of the neighbouring gentlemen and ladies usually attending in these excursions:

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yet fometimes he had the happiness to enjoy her company alone. In the gardens were many charming wildernesses of shrubs and evergreens, streams winding through banks of primrofes, rustic seats beneath aged oaks and elms, temples and hermitages, where just taste had scattered mottos and poems fuited to their fituations. Through these walks Lady Cecilia did not scruple to accompany Edward; and here did she often charm his attention by talking of his father and mother, whom she called her dear protectors-and recalling the recollection of all those simple and peaceful scenes, endeared to Edward from his infancy, and receiving new charms from the happy hours fpent in them with her Ladyship, and from being now the themes on which she seemed most delighted to converse. Here could he have been contented to remain for ever !- His heart, which had begun to pant for glory, was every day relapfing, into the languors of love; and his commission, which had been the pride and joy of his heart, feemed now almost to be a misfortune, when it reminded him that the fatal hour was approaching which was to fummon him across the Atlantic-when the foft fcenes in which he was now engaged, were to be changed for horrors and for tumults—and when thousands of miles of an inhospitable and tempestuous element were to roll between him and the defire of his foul. The thoughts of this separation were the only thing that detracted from his present transport. Yet how falutary was it for his peace! for what prospect or what probability has he of ever gratifying that passion to which he so incautiously. refigns his foul? Poor Ned was not infensible of his delusion—he knew his passion to be hopeless, and a thousand times did he resolve to restrain it

within the bounds of reason and inviolable friendship; but one glance of Lady Cecilia's eye was able to overthrow all his refolution, and to rivet him in chains which not even despair itself could unloose. The lovely Cecilia herself perceived his emotions, and pitied what she could not relieve. She thought him indeed of all men that she had seen the most amiable and engaging; and fometimes she wished she had been born in Wales, and never known a lot fuperior to the happy mediocrity of a decent competence. But she was not insensible of the dignity of her station, nor indifferent to the honour of her family. She loved and revered her father with all the powers of her foul, and she would die before she would swerve from the smallest tittle of the duty which she owed him. She knew that of all things on earth he was most tenacious of the dignity of his family; and though he knew how to respect and to reward merit wherever he found it, yet the thought of matching her into a plebeian family was what fhe was fure he never would endure, and a mortification to which she herfelf would never expose him. On the other hand she thought every thing short of love was due to Edward. She applanded the fentiment of generous friendship and unbounded gratitude which she felt for him; and whilft the confined herfelf to these fentiments, the thought the might fafely indulge them to their utmost latitude. She behaved therefore to him with the utmost openness and frankness, and with that kind of affectionate familiarity with which a fifter would behave to a brother-and which the youth, who perfectly understood her meaning, received with a timidity and bashfulness wholly unknown to him on any other occasion. CHAP.

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## CHAP. XXX.

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MONG the families of distinction in the neighbourhood, who were in habits of intimacy at Ravensdale House, one of its most frequent vifitors was that of the Reverend Doctor Burton; a clergyman of large preferment and confiderable independent fortune. He had been at college with the Earl, where an intimacy commenced which had never met with the smallest interruption, and which had been of mutual adwantage to both on many occasions. The Docnor's unaffected piety being joined to great learning, and adorned with the utmost elegance of manners, contributed greatly to that reverence for religion and cautious regard to moral character which diffinguished the Earl, and which in a great measure he imbibed from his early acquaintance with him; and his lordship had in return been extremely serviceable to the Doctor; in raising him to the lucrative fituation in the church which he then enjoyed.

This gentleman's family confifted of his wife and two daughters; the youngest of whom, Miss Sophia, was a beautiful and accomplished girl, and the bosom friend of Lady Cecilia. The eldest, Miss Henrietta, was also very hand-fome; but having been educated in the metropolis under the care of a maiden aunt, whose god-daughter she was; she had spent but little time in the country even with her father and vol. 1.

She had returned to them, however, lately on the death of her aunt, who lived to finish her education, and, dying, bequeathed to her her whole fortune, amounting to 10,000l. independent of her father and mother. If envy could have harboured in fuch a breaft as Sophia's, the marked attention which was every where paid to Henrietta, even in her father's house, might have given birth to that odious paffion: but she looked on the good fortune of her fifter with the utmost complacency and good nature, and fighed neither for pleasures nor possessions which could not be enjoyed but at the expence of innocence and tranquillity of mind. The fociety of Lady Cecilia was to her the most delightful of all entertainments; nor did her tender and faithful heart ever wander after gratifications beyond the pale of domestic enjoyments. It is true she had not as yet seen any other; but she had heard her friend talk of them without much regard, and faw her prefer the tranquil pleasures, even when she had the others in her choice, and those too in the highest perfection. But Harriet was of a different opinion. She had been used to the gayest scenes of the metropolis, where her fociety was courted and her beauty admired-but where her attentions to her mind had not kept pace with those to her person. The country therefore was to her exile; and the felt more horrors in her father's house than Sophy probably would have done in a prifon. The Doctor observed this turn in his daughter with regret; and thought it ill compenfated for, even by her fortune of 10,000l. But her mother viewed her with admiration, and was for ever proposing her as the pa tern of elegance to the hundred times more elegant Sophia. And the reserve the commence of the

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If a fashionable appearance be pronounced to be elegance, she was indeed possessed of this species of it; but fashion itself is not always elegant, and I believe was never less so than at the time I speak of; a certain air of forward freedom and masculine intrepidity having been adopted as the highest ton of fashion among the ladies, utterly subversive of that engaging softness and modest delicacy which used to be considered as essential ornaments of the semale char-

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Another family, which sometimes used to vifit at Ravensdale, though less frequently, was Mr. Nettlefield's the father of the young man whom we have already heard of in the story of Miss Grainger. The circumstances of that affair, and his base behaviour to that amiable and innocent girl, were not generally known, not even to his own nearest connections. himself was with his regiment in America, where his public conduct as an officer was unimpeachable: his gallantries were confidered as natural to his time of life; they were laughed at by the men, and did not discredit him even with the women, doubtless because their malignant circumstances were not fully known; and now that he was abletted it was confidered as ungenerous to talk about them. But the knowledge of them in all their blackness preposiessed Ned even against the father, who came over from his own house on purpose to wait upon him and Captain Rivers, and to ask them there

Mr. Nettlefield was one of those kind of men who never grow old, but carry along with them to their grand climacteric all the vices and sollies of nineteen and twenty. He had once been handsome, and, like his son, had taken advantage of this circumstance to engage the affection.

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their horses. The economy within doors was nearly answerable to that without. The room into which they were thewn did not feem to have been washed for a twelve-month; and on its floor were many stains of the libations which had been poured out to the God of Revels. Nettlefield called them honourable stains, and fwore he preferred them to the finest colours of an Axminster carpet. " In this house;" said he, "my jewels, all is freedom! and for fear my friends should not feel perfectly at eafe, I take care that there shall be nothing that will spoileven their dogs are welcome to every room in the house." But does Mrs. Nettlefield make them fo?" faid Ned. " Oh! I never confult her," replied he; " we have long fince arranged those matters. She never partakes of my amusements, nor I of hers." What, then, tha'n't we fee her and Miss Nettlefield?" faid the Captain. " Aye," faid the other; " if you prefer a fermon to a bottle of claret. The truth is, there was a mad parfon here fome time ago, and I believe he bit them both; for they feem so utterly devoted to the other world, that they are no longer fit for this. I never can get either of them down when any body is with me; and (egod!) I would as foon go to church as fit with either of them alone. So Liberty being my motto, I let them take their way, and I take mine." " Very right, Sir," faid Counsellor Grogan (who was one of the company invited -to dinner)-" the Irish make the best husbands in the world, and know best how to deal with their wives. I remember a gentleman, a friend of mine, who did not live with his wife upon those happy terms which you and Mrs. Nettlefield have adopted. The lady indeed would not fuffer her husband either to share her pleasures,

or have any of his own. He bore it longer than a man of his fense and his fortune might be supposed to do. At length he took the opportunity of an altercation that happened one morning at breakfast, and he told his wife, ' My dear Mrs. Clappertongue,' faid he, ' for what purpose is it for you and I to fit and torment one another this way any longer? I have come to a refolution,' faid he, 'that shall at once give us quiet, and make us live upon the best terms possible.' . And pray what is your. resolution, Mr. Clappertongue?' said she. Why, my dear, I am come to a resolution to divide the house with you,' replied he. ' Nothing can be more agreeable to me,' replied Mrs. Clappertongue. 'But do you know how I intend to divide it?' faid he. 'No!' replied the, 'how should I know? 'Then, by Jmy dear, I will tell you. I will take the infide, and you shall take the out: and so set about packing up your things, for by G- it shall be divided before dinner!'. My friend was as good as his word, and has been as happy a married. man as most in the kingdom ever fince."

Dinner coming in put an end to this ingenious conversation, and interrupted the reflections. which were rifing in Ned's mind. He was glad indeed to be relieved from the necessity of making any reply to fentiments without wit, and wit without fentiment; but if his intellectual entertainment was barren, his corporeal one was profuse—and the attentions of Nettlefield, together with the excellence of the fare, contributed to restore him to good humour, and to make him endure a man of whom his first impreffions were not favourable, and who had not rifen in his esteem by any thing he had heard 

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When the cloth was taken away, and the deck cleared, as Nettlefield termed it, he called for ammunition; by which my unenlightened readers are to understand wine, and any other liquors that the adepts choose in the great myftery of drinking. The church, the king, the mother of faints, and various other ingenious and patriotic toasts were drunk with all the honours, and in fuch copious bumpers that Ned began to feel himself elevating. He soon made an attempt to withdraw; but now he found how little some men's mottos and professions agree with their fentiments and practice. The door was locked; and this house, where Liberty was the motto, was converted into a bacchanalian baftile. It is true they were for the most part willing prisoners, but this was not the case of Ned or the Captain. They begged, they implored, they remonstrated-but all in vain; fo finding what brutes they had to deal with, they fubmitted to their chains, but determined never to be taken in them again. For the rest, all was conviviality—the wine was excellent, and it was not spared: they laughed, they roared, they danced, they fung, all except our two gentlemen and a fat farmer, a Mr. Shamrock, who luckily sat between them. This gentleman very foon fell fast asleep; and happening to have on a very wide pair of boots, Ned wickedly took the advantage of emptying the greatest part of his glass into them unobserved; an example which the Captain followed on the other fide, and thus happily preferved themselves in a state of tolerable fobriety. They were at last released; not, however, before the dawn had begun to dapple the eaftern clouds; and were g'id when they got to Ravensdale, to find themselves once more in the realms of real liberty and pleasure. CHAP.

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## CHAP. XXXI.

DUT whatever dislike these gentlemen had to the noify orgies of Nettlefield's table, they had none at all to his company in the field; in all the sports of which he was a complete adept. They accordingly often accompanied him a-hunting; and Lord Ravensdale, though he never shared in that diversion himself, and difliked the trouble of a pack of hounds, and the fociety to which they unavoidably led, yet took care to be always amply provided with excellent horses, for the accommodation of such of his friends or vifitors as loved the sport, but were unprovided with the means of enjoying it. To his choice of these Mr. Evans was always welcome; and indeed, to him, there could not be a higher gratification; for the love of horses, as it was one of his earliest, so it continued to be one of his strongest passions

It was one day after they had had a fevere chace of many hours, when reynard succeeded in soiling all his adversaries, and the company were dispersed over the fields, that Ned took the opportunity of their dispersion to return home without taking leave of Nettlefield, and hoping that Captain Rivers, who was not immediately in sight, would follow him. He was somewhat satigued with the length of the chase, and had no mind to engage in the still severer toil that

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he knew he must undergo had he accompanied Mr. Nettlefield to his house. Rapt up then in pleasing meditations on his present happiness, and the new and bufy scenes that were opening to him, he gave his horse the bridle, permitting him to take his own choice of the way he would go home; and not doubting but he would lead him the nearest, if not the easiest road. In this, however, he was mistaken; for the horse had been purchased from Nettlefield, who bred him; and being now feized with a defire to vifit his native fields, he was actually conducting Edward to the very spot in which he was foaled. In their way was a deep glen, through which ran a stream of water, and beside it stood a lonely cottage, whose ruinous appearance and deserted fituation pronounced it to be the abode of neglected mifery. Ned stopped a moment to contemplate this sequestered spot, and to slake his thirst with the cool and limpid stream that was gliding by; when a poor and feeble, but venerable and decent old woman came out of the cottage; supporting with a stick in one hand her tottering steps, and bearing in the other an empty pitcher, which when filled with water, the would scarcely be able to carry back again. When the faw Edward, she would have retired; but he immediately alighted from his horse, and, with all that good nature which was ever an inflinctive movement of his foul, relieved her from the burthen of her pitcher, which he filled for her with water, and infifted upon carrying it for her to the house. This little act of kindness, however inconsiderable in itself, yet afforded a dawn of consolation to the afflicted object for whom, it was performed; for it was the first act of pity or attention that the had experienced for a long

a long while, though no person could be more in need of both, nor better deserve them. The good old woman surveyed Ned for a minute in. filent gratitude, and then burst out into tears. " Alas! dame," faid the fympathizing youth, " furely some deep misfortune has befallen you, that you live thus lonely in this ruinous cottage, fo far from any neighbour or affistance." " Oh! Sir," replied the, "! am not quite alone, for God is with me; and he perhaps has fent you here this day to witness the distress I am in, and may be to fave the life of my poor child. Pray, Sir, have the goodness to look in here, and see if you can do any thing for her." She then conducted Ned into a little space partitioned off the cottage by a few wattles, where, on a pallet of straw lay a beautiful girl of about eighteen, in the highest paroxysm of a pleuretic sever. The flush that was on her countenance gave a transient illumination to her beauty; but the fixed stare of her eyes, and the burning heat of her body, joined to the short pantings of her breath, seemed to indicate that a very short per riod would place her beyond the reach of all worldly calamity.

Ned was not a physician, but he was able to bleed; a part of the art which he had first learned for the benefit of his horse, but which he had found useful to know how to do upon many occasions before the present, and had skill enough to be convinced was the first thing to be done in the case before him. He took a lancet therefore, which he always carried in his pocket book, and, with the assistance of the mother, soon performed the operation, to the wishble and almost immediate relief of the patient; and as soon as he had bound up her arm,

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he hastened to gratify his curiofity respecting their situation. The poor old woman prefaced her narration with another burst of tears, in which those of sorrow were mingled with those

of gratitude.

" My name, Sir," faid she, " is Alice Doran, and it is only a fortnight comes to-morrow fince my poor husband died upon that bed on which you have now feen my daughter laid, and who, if it shall be the Almighty's will, is I hope prepared to follow him." " Did your husband die of the same fever that your daughter has?" interrupted Ned. " No, Sir," replied the dame, "he died of a broken heart, and my poor child has caught her present illness by cold and fatigue in her attendance upon him: for, alas! Sir, we have not been always fo deftitute; we never knew what it was to want the decent necessaries of life till our cruel landlord first took from us the staff of our age, and then abandoned us to want and milery."-" Who is this tyrant?" asked Ned. " Mayhap your Honour knows him," replied the old woman; it is Squire Nettlefield."-" O yes, I know him," faid the youth, " and can believe all that you fay. Pray let me hear your flory out." Why, Sir, as I was faying, we always had the decent necessaries of life, for we rented a finall farm, which enabled us to live as long as we were able to manage it; which we might have done yet if the Squire had left us our fon, and it had pleafed God to have continued my dear hulband to me; but indeed it was the loss of our boy that was the beginning of all our misfortunes." " What became of him?" interrapted Ned. "He was lifted for a foldier, Sir, " replied the old woman. " About two

years ago there was a regiment raised here to go all the way to America to fight; and the officers got their commissions according to the number of men they could raife. Mr. Nettlefield's fon got advanced in that regiment by his father's forcing all the tenants and cotters to part with their fons, or be turned out of their farms; and I would to God we had been turned out at first, and then I should not have been bereaved of my husband and my child! And had we kept together, we might have still been well to live; but they wheedled my fon away, and promifed him twenty guineas, and he never got more than five; and God knows whether he is living this day or not, for I never heard but once from him when he first got to America, and they fay they never will be able to beat them, and perhaps my poor boy has been killed." " Oh! never despond," interrupted Ned. "I myself am going to America, and they who told you we should not beat them know nothing of the matter. I'll warrant we'll give a good account of them, and bring home your fon in triumph too." " I alk no triumph," replied the poor old woman; "I ask only for peace. Would to God I had been suffered to have lived with my family in peace, and I would not have moved a mile, far less four thousand, to have disturbed that of any creature upon earth." "Poch," faid Ned, "now you fpeak like an old woman." " I speak like what I am then, Sir," replied she; " but I speak also like a christian."-" I acknowledge it," said Ned. "I beg your pardon. I did not mean to offend you."-" Oh! Sir, you cannot offend me," faid she. "But, to resume my unhappy story. When my fon was gone, the work was too heavy

for his father; and though the poor dear girl who now lies on that fick pallet, as well as myfelf, exerted ourselves to the utmost to affish him. yet we were all unequal to the task, so that my poor man lost all heart, and with it his health; and when he was unable to pay his rent, the fquire feized all, even the very beds from under us, and turned us out of house and home; and had it not been for the friendship of a neighbouring farmer, who gave us this cottage, we should not have had a shelter for our houseless We have now been here, Sir, about nine months. My poor husband, as long as he was able, used to do a little work for the good man that befriended us, and who still continues to affift us; but his heart was quite broke, and, as I faid, it is a fortnight to-morrow fince God was pleased to deliver him from all his forrows." " My good woman," faid Mr. Evans, " I heartily feel for your afflictions; but if you will allow a young officer to preach to you, I would defire you not to despond. I am one of those who are not ashamed to confess that they believe in God; and that his providence is over all his works. Perhaps it is he who has directed my steps hither this day, for certainly I had no thoughts of coming here myself; and if he has been pleased to make me an humble instrument of bringing any good to you, I shall gratefully accept the charge, and be thankful that he has made my duty fuit fo exactly with my inclina-Your daughter is relieved by the bleeding, and I will call again to fee both you and her. In the mean time you know all that is necessary for her in her present state; which that you may be able to provide for her with more comfort, you will please to accept this small

matter till I am able to fee you again." With these words he slipped two guineas into her hand; and without waiting to hear the fervent ejaculations of piety and gratitude which the good old woman was devoutly offering up to Heaven in his favour, he mounted his horse, and was out of her fight in a moment.

When he got to Ravensdale, he found Captain Rivers had got home before him, and that Lord Rivers also had come down from Dublin.

and brought with him an English nobleman, who had never been in Ireland before, and to whom the reader shall be introduced in the next

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## CHAP. XXXII.

HE nobleman who had arrived fo unexpectedly at Ravensdale, was the Viscount Squanderfield, the very Lord who had been fo affiduous in his attentions upon Lady Cecilia when she was with her aunt in London, and with whose attentions her ladyship did not seem to be at all flattered. He was, however, very high in the graces of Lady Elizabeth Belmont, by whom a title and the manners of a man of fashion were considered as first-rate accomplishments, and fufficient to atone for the want of most others. Her ladyship had observed with pleasure that her niece seemed to have made an impression on this noble lord when she had been in London, and did not conceive it possible but his addresses must be highly agreeable, not only to Lady Cecilia, but also to her father and the rest of the family; she had therefore furnished his lordship with the warmest recommendations to her brother, the Earl of Ravensdale, magnifying, or rather creating his virtues and endowments, among which she reckoned as not the least an estate of near 20,000l. a year; and indeed if she could have made good this last character she had given of his lordship, I doubt not but many others would have acquiefced in the opinion that it was a qualification and endowment of a most exalted kind. But what-

ever his lordship's estate might have been when he took possession of it, which was hardly four years before this time, it is certain that it was now diminished pretty nearly in the same proportion, and that hardly a fourth part of it remained. We must not therefore give his lordship entire credit for that discerning eye with which he fo foon diffeovered the uncommon merits of the charming Cecilia, nor for that ardour of affection which had now borne him across the sea in pursuit of this beloved object. The truth is, the supreme object of his lordship's regard he wifely chose to keep so near himself, that he need never quit his own room to purfue it any where; and it is a question whether all the mental or corporeal perfections of Lady Cecilia would have been able to raife him out of his arm chair, had they not been connected with other endowments of a more folid and weighty nature, and which were of the highest value in his lordship's eyes. We are therefore fo far from admiring his lordship's differnment in his felection of Lady Cecilia, that we are rather disposed to wonder at his want of it, did not the experience of every day convince us that felf-love is able to absorb all other passions, and to shed so dark a mist upon the understanding as to render it impervious to the rays of truth itself. Had this lord contemplated himself in any other glass than that of pride, he never could have prefumed to lift his thoughts to fuch a character as Lady Cecilia. Nursed up under the doting care of a fond and foolish mother, to whom he was an only child, he was ten years old before he knew his letters; and all the learning he had fince acquired was little more than to spell them and put them together. He was an adept, however, at cards;

which did him this fervice, that it was his defire to study Hoyle that prevailed upon him ever to read at all. But for this knowledge he had paid most dearly, and with a greater sum than probably educated and maintained Sir Isaac Newton through the whole course of his long and glorious life. Nor was the person of this nobleman more apt to inspire affection than his abilities were to create esteem. Tall and wan, he refembled those exotic plants which spindle up in our hot-houses, where they put forth some fickly bloffoms, but which wither and drop off the instant they are exposed to the natural atmosphere. Weak as his constitution was by nature, it was rendered still more so by an early initiation into all the vices of the metropolis, and by that wearisome pursuit of dissipated pleasure which is the epidemic fever of the times, and the confequences of which are so fatally visible from the highest even to the lowest orders of society. His rank, however, entitled him to a polite reception any where; and at Ravensdale he would have been fure of this, even though he had no fuch pretentions to it.

Lord Rivers had been acquainted with this nobleman in London, where he often met him at his aunt's, and had contracted with him that kind of friendship which now-a-days subsists between young men of rank, whose chief occupation is the pursuit of pleasure, and who in that pursuit are willing to take as a partner whoever is disencumbered with principle, but sufficiently laden with cash; from which burthen too they commonly have a charitable view of relieving each other. His lordship was rejoiced therefore at the arrival of his English friend on the territory of St. Patrick, and resolved to shew him all that genuine hospitality which the sons of that renowned saint are ac-

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knowledged to possess. Neither was he at all displeased with the motive which Lord Squanderfield avowed to have induced him to cross the fea, and promised him in the pursuit of it all the influence which he could exert both with his father and his fifter. With this view he recommended to him to fet off as foon as poffible to Ravensdale, without sending any warning of his approach, to shew that the ardour of his paffion would not fuffer him to be amused by any of the novelties that Dublin or its neighbourhood was able to present; and he promised to conduct him himself in his own phaeton and four, although parliament was still fitting; so that Lord Squanderfield had every reason to be highly pleafed with his first reception on the Irish shore.

The two noble lords fet out accordingly the next morning, and performed their journey without meeting any difagreeable adventure, except that Lord Squanderfield damned all the inns, the waiters, and the chambermaids; and that Monsieur Papillote, his lordship's gentleman, got a black eye from one of the latter, as he was prefuming to grin love to her through his French lantern jaws. When they reached the gate that enters into the park at Ravensdale, the view of that venerable mansion, and the noble sheet of water which the Shannon there exhibits, forms a very striking and majestic scene; but Lord Squanderfield was fo taken up with a little French lap-dog he had with him, that he had no leifure to observe any of the furrounding objects. He had indeed nearly overlooked Lady Cecilia herfelf, who, feeing the carriage at a distance, and knowing it to be her brother's, had come out to meet him. Her furprise was only exceeded by her mortification, when the

faw who accompanied him. But Lord Squanderfield, awakened by Lord Rivers, got out of the phaeton, and, with his little dog under one arm, had the prefumption to offer the other to Lady Cecilia, who he fwore by G- was the finest woman he had ever feen out of England, which made him defirous to transplant her thither; and this with another oath he affirmed was the fole business that had brought him over. Her ladyship was so surprised at seeing him, and fo confounded by this fally of impertinence, that she was fairly at a loss what to reply. She blushed, however, into a deep crimson, which his lordship fondly interpreted into an evident expression of the most favourable sentiments for him; a mistake into which nothing but the blindest and most partial felf-love could have led The only passion he was capable of exciting in the bosom of Cecilia was either that of pity or contempt. Her placid temper and her excellent understanding preserved her from anger; and the confideration that she stood upon her father's ground induced her to suppress every emotion of refentment, and to fuffer his lordship to lead her into the house.

After some cold enquiries about his voyage and other uninteresting matters, she lest him to the care of her father and her brothers, and retired to her dressing-room, more discomposed than those who were best acquainted with her had ever seen her before. From this embarrassment she was, however, somewhat relieved by the arrival of Dr. Burton and his two daughters, who we before said were in habits of intimacy at Ravensdale, and who came over with the intention to spend the day there. Miss Harriet was delighted when she heard of the arrival of the English lord, which she rightly considered

would-make some buffle in the neighbourhood; but Sophia, whose disposition led her to the calm enjoyments of domestic life, felt more in unison with Lady Cecilia on the occasion, and regretted any interruption to those pleasing moments which she used to pass with her among the tranquil and deep embowering shades of Ravenfdale. When the necessary preliminaries of adjusting their dress were over, and the hour of dinner approached, the ladies went to the drawing-room, and were accompanied by Captain Rivers and Mr. Evans. They were all introduced to the newly-arrived lord, who proportioned his bows exactly to the rank of each, paffing over Evans with a careless air, as if his lordly dignity had no attentions to bestow on any man, however amiable, that was not at least in fome remote connection allied to the peerage. The youth was not, however, disconcerted by this neglect; indeed amends were made him in the warm attachment of Lord Rivers to him, and the visible preference which Miss Sophia gave him, who was well acquainted with the whole of his spirited and generous conduct to Lady Cecilia, and who beheld in his person all those graces and prepossessing elegancies which few would exchange for the long shanks and founding titles of Squanderfield. Doctor Burton too had conceived a very high opinion of Nedfor he had discovered in him a just and dignified fense of religion united to classic knowledge and tafte; fo that though in point of rank he was the humblest of the company, yet he was very far from being the lowest in private estimation.

Dinner being announced, Lord Squanderfield led Lady Cecilia to the head of the table, and immediately feated himself beside her—unmind-

ful that Lord Ravensdale had not yet got to his chair-unmindful that Dr. Burton had still a ceremony to perform, which at Ravensdale was never neglected, but which he himself had so long difused, that he hardly knew the respect that was due to it. When the cloth was removed, a very interesting conversation took place relative to the fituation of public affairs, which at that time was very critical; but in this Lord Squanderfield took no warmer part than he ufually did in the debates of his house—simply an-Iwering yes or no, when any question was addressed to him. His lordship's attention seemed indeed to be wholly employed in rummaging among some nuts that lay with other fruit on the table. Having at last discovered among the shells a couple of maggots, he feemed as if new waked. and immediately making two circles on the table with some wine that was in his glass, he placed a maggot in the centre of each, and offered to lay a hundred guineas upon the head of either jumping over the circumference, if any person at the table would take up the bet, and lay upon the other. Lord Ravensdale stared; and Dr. Burton cast up his eyes to heaven; a deep blush suffused the cheek of the lovely Cecilia, arifing probably from a mingled emotion of pity and contempt—to which possibly might be added some small portion of indignation, that fuch a character should ever be thought of as a ht object of her affections. The penetrating eye of Evans faw these several emotions clearly working in her mind; it was fixed fast upon her, which her ladyship soon perceived, and was as alert in reading Edward's mind as he had been her ladyship's. She relieved herself and the company foon after from the awkward embarrassment

of this filly adventure, by rifing with the two Miss Burtons from table; and his lordship not finding any one disposed to gamble with him, not long after fell asleep in his chair, unable to contribute any thing to the fund of rational conversation, or to derive any amusement or advantage from it himself.

END OF FIRST VOLUME.



